

February 12, 2021

Maryland Senate
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support - SB 441: Developmental Disabilities Administration – Self - Directed Services

Good afternoon members of the Senate Finance Committee.

I am the parent of a child with multiple challenges and disabilities. I am a member of Parent Advocacy Consortium, and we advocate for children like my son, and other individuals with disabilities that require time, resources and support to help them build their areas of major life skills in the ways that works best for them, as individuals.

Just like the development of major life skills, it is extremely important to preserve the self-directed services that are so very important to so many people within our state. Without this training many of them would be unable to work toward living an independent life. As well as making the best choices for how and where to spend their time during the week.

We also support the establishment an advisory committee on Self-Directed Services for individuals with disabilities, and to help with assessing the level of funding and quality of the services that are being offered at this time. Hoping that we can work to grow the catalog of service offerings across our state.

We are also in support of the delegation collecting information from the workgroup and advisory council in order to make informed decisions that will aid with the funding level decisions that help support so many in our disabled community. These self-directed services are vital to their continuing development and we hope that you will work to maintain the level of support, and working together maybe even increase the service offerings and funding within the state of Maryland.

Please return a favorable report and support SB 441, updating DDA's self-directed services and preserve the choices and services that are vital to the lives of so many within our communities of disabled persons.

Thank you for considering my testimony today.

Kind regards,

Mr. Richard Ceruolo
Parent, and Advocate for people with disabilities.