

I support HB 318 and SB 441

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

Samantha's Good Life



Because of Self-Direction I...

- Started my own baking business "The Cupcake Queen", now a licensed "cottage farm" business in the State of Maryland.
- started training to participate in 5k races this year.
- Participate fully in my community as a volunteer at the Library and reader at my church.
- Graduated from Wor Wic Community College with an AA Degree in Applied Sciences.
- Serve on the Advisory Council and became a trainer with Shared Support of Maryland under a grant that provides training on the Person Centered Planning process.

*My family & I support the **Self-Direction Act** because **Choice and Control** have changed my life!*



Samantha Davis
5122 Paw Paw Rd
Cambridge MD 21613
410-463-3929
Election District 37B

I support the Self-Direction bill because it will ...

- Let me continue to make decisions about my life.
- Let me have the people in my life who know me best (my family) and support and help me reach my goals.
- Give me control over my life and let me live the life I want to live.
- Let me keep the support broker who understands my needs and knows how best to support me.

#CARE Md

I support HB 318 and SB 441

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

Rob's Good Life



*My family & I support the **Self-Direction Act** because I have control over my life.
I am in control.*



Rob Stone
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Because of Self-Direction I can:

- Be an advocate for health care & disability rights
- Volunteer for Imagination Stage as an usher
- Take classes at Montgomery College
- Be a member of the Spirit Club gym
- Write poems & read them at literary events
- Play Challenger Baseball & go to Nationals & Orioles games

What choices have I made?

- To live in my own home with my family
- To have pets
- To go where I want & do what I want, when I want

Why do my family and I support the Self-Direction Act?) (Put your own comments in place of words below)

- **C**reate a strong Advisory Council to re-establish the principles of self-direction and DDA accountability
- **A**llow my mom to continue to help me with my advocacy career
- **R**estore my right to choose a support broker to be my primary advocate because my mom handles a lot of my other administrative needs
- **E**nsure MY choice and control of all MY services
- **M**andate that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

#CARE Md

I support HB 318 and SB 0441

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

Patrick's Good Life



Because of Self-Direction I can...

- Have an active and happy life while embracing my Autism
- Choose employees who are dedicated to helping me achieve my goals
- Make my own choices about my life, including volunteering and recreation
- Live safely and happily at home with my mom
- Be a part of my community

What choices I have made?

- To go to horseback therapy to manage my anxiety
- To maintain a daily routine and contribute to my family's home by helping with laundry, cleaning, and shopping
- To volunteer at my public libraries, food banks, public schools, and state and local parks and trails

My family & I support the Self-Direction Act because Choose and Control make the Good Life possible.



I support the Self-Direction bill because...

- **C**reate a strong Advisory Council to re-establish the principles of self-direction and DDA accountability
- **A**llow participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estore the participants' right to choose a support broker as their primary advocate
- **E**nsure participant choice and control of all services
- **M**andate that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

Patrick Good
1315 Vanderbilt Rd
Bel Air, MD
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District 35B

#CARE Md. For more information visit MarylandSDS.org

Hi! I'm Mary Beth and I love my life now that I am in Self Directed Services. For 10 years I was in traditional services: that is a group home and a day workshop. I wasn't happy and started showing it through my behavior. My family heard there was another way to support me and to help me live the life I wanted. Since 2009 I have been self directing my services and my life is sooooo much better. I get to live in my own condo with a typical roommate and I hire the people I want to support me. I have a great team of part time ladies that help get me to my part-time volunteer activities at nursing homes and soup kitchens (pre Covid of course!) as well as to my community activities such as zumba, fitness classes, bowling, movies, and my favorite - eating out at restaurants. I



need you to pass **HB 318**.

Since my family knows me best, they help with the hiring and training of staff. My Dad is my support broker and I need him to advocate for me. I am non verbal and communicate with signs and gestures and so people outside my family don't always understand what I need and want. **HB 318** ensures that my family can always be there to support me and assist me in hiring people who will help me be the best person I can be. **HB 318** creates an advisory board to help DDA know what is best for people in self directed services. Having **choices** about what I do each day and who works with me is very important. I need to have **control** over my life to be happy. Thank you for all you do to help me live this good life!



Here I am last year with my staff before Covid 19 and masks!!!

Mary Beth Coffin
% Bill and Pat Coffin
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I support HB 318

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

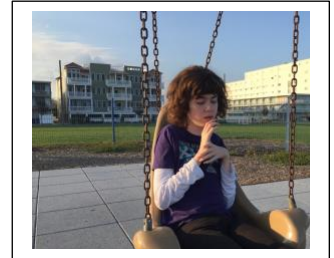
My way my life!



Self-Direction allows me to:

- *Achieve goals that I select and that are meaningful to me
- *Enables me to integrate in the community with support from those I trust and feel comfortable with
- *Allows me to choose whom I employ
- *Provides opportunities to have new and exciting experiences

I support the Self-Direction Act because I deserve to have options. I am special, and I know what works best for me!



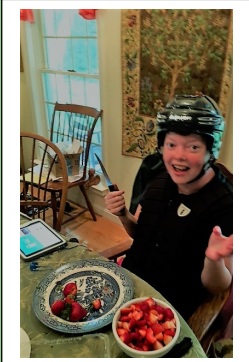
Self-Direction provides *remarkable outcomes* for people like me who have disabilities! I need this Bill to pass so I will continue to have the opportunities that I choose and will enable me to continue to have a purposeful life!

- **M**ake a strong Advisory Council to *re-establish* the principles of self-direction & DDA accountability
- **A**llow participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estore the participants' right to choose a support broker as their primary advocate
- **I**magine life with freedom of choice
- **A**nyone eligible for DDA services can self-direct

Maria Grace Ellis
4324A Necker Avenue
Baltimore Md 21236

#Maria Needs Self Direction!

My Self-Directed Life



Because of Self-Direction I can...

- Have an active and happy life despite my severe epilepsy
- Choose employees who are dedicated to helping me achieve my goals
- Make my own choices about my life, including volunteering and recreation
- Live safely and happily in the home I have chosen.

What choices have I made?

- To maintain my fragile health by working out every day
- To ride horseback and volunteer at the Retreat at Beckleystown
- To contribute to my family home by helping with shopping, laundry and meal prep.
- To cultivate the many community friendships, I have made

*Choice and Control Matter
Matter to Me!*



What will the Self-Direction Act do?

- **C**reate a strong Advisory Council to re-establish the principles of self-direction & DDA accountability
- **A**llow participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estore the participants' right to choose a support broker as their primary advocate
- **E**nsure participant's choice and control of all services
- **M**andate that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

#CARE Md

Lucy Carter
18224 Gunpowder Rd.
Hampstead, Md.21074
410 790 4375
District 42B

January 18, 2021

Susan W. Krebs
Health & Government Operations Committee

Re: HB 318

Dear Ms. Krebs,

Self-Directed Services is important to me by providing the choices I can make in my life. I was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at age 14 months. A neurologist informed my parents I should be placed in an institution because I would never thrive and develop into an independent person. However, with supportive parents, the provision of special education classes, caring therapists, and Self-Directed Services, I am alive, 48 years old, and a very happy person.

My experiences include attending a residential school for persons with disabilities, living in an assisted living unit, living in an apartment with support staff, and now living in my family home. I like being in Self-Directed Services because I can choose what I want to do. "I AM BOSS!" I have a wonderful support team that understands my Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy and Intellectual Disabilities. With Self-Directive Services, I have been able to volunteer in various locations: an elementary school, a Good-Will store, a Maryland State Park, and in an organization that provides care and adoption of animals. I really enjoyed helping a frail kitten with failure to thrive, to grow into a beautiful cat that was quickly adopted into a loving home.

I enjoy Special Olympics where I participate in bowling and bocce, locally and at state competitions. For several years I have received gold, silver and bronze medals for these sports. I am hoping Covid-19 will not prevent these activities from being held during this year 2021. I am so happy that in this pandemic, Development Disabilities Administration of Maryland reports no cases of Covid-19 occurring in participants in Self-Directed Services!

Thank you for listening to my story in support of HB 318.

Sincerely,



Laurie Annette Bittinger
157 E. Omar Street
Oakland Maryland, 21550



I support HB 318

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

My Self Directed Life...



Self-direction is important to me because...

I make my own schedule each day

I choose my own staff, including family members

I go to places I like and choose activities I want to do

I have a support system of my choosing, including family members!

Choices I have made

With Staff, I participate in community outings, working on mosaics, participate in things that keep the home running well, volunteer at local horse farm, and perfect skills I have along with gaining new skills. Because I have many behavior issues and can be aggressive, I'm able to choose staff that will help me diffuse.

I support the Self-Direction Act because Choice and Control make the Good Life possible.



I support the Self-Direction bill because it will...

- **C**reate a strong Advisory Council to re-establish the principles of self-direction and DDA accountability
- **A**llow participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estore the participants' right to choose a support broker as their fiduciary
- **E**nsure participant choice and control of all services
- **M**andate that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

#CARE Md

Justin Sauter
100 Brookebury Dr.
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Reisterstown, MD 21136
District 10

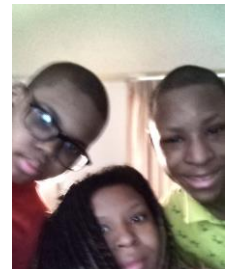
Jessica's Self-Directed Life



Self-direction is important to me because it makes feel in charge of my life. It gives me the freedom to hire my own employees who help me engage in my community. My employees help me with meal preparation, shopping, laundry, and housekeeping. By being an employer I have learned about the importance of managing my budget and making choices that match my needs.

I recently completed a course at CCBC in job development. And I also participate in the Arc's Partners in Policymaking program. I am working towards a job as a peer support specialist for people with disabilities.

Self-Direction has empowered me to work towards independence



Jessica Salmon
7507/ Stonecutter Cr.
Rosedale, Md.
21237
Election District 8
443 835 8517

I support the Self-Direction bill because...
(Why do my family and I support the Self-Direction Act?)

- **C**reate strong Advisory Council to re-establish core principles of self-direction
- **A**llow participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estore the participants' right to choose a support broker as their fiduciary.
- **E**nsure participant's choice and control of all services
- **M**andate that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

#CARE Md



Support: testimony in Support of SB-0441 and HB-0318

House Health and Government Operations Committee

Mary Grelli, Kenneth Garove for Francis

January 20, 2021

Hello, I am Mary Grelli and my husband is Kenneth Garove. I am writing to express my concern that DDA, in most recent waiver language, intends to force participants in the self-directed Community Pathways Waiver, to appoint a designated representative. My son, Francis Garove has been in the Community Pathways waiver for the past 5 years. Francis has multiple severe disabilities including Cerebral Palsy and Intellectual Disabilities.

My husband and I have been advocating and caring for our disabled son in our home since he was born 29 years ago. Recently I had the unfortunate experience with a DDA regional office representative challenging my legal standing to ask for current information regarding my son. He asked me who I was. When I reiterated that I was his mother, he explained that he meant who I was regarding guardianship, designated representative or other title. He explained that he did not want to speak with me regarding the issues at hand because of HIPPA restrictions. He also said that he preferred to speak to my son's CCS. This line of questioning was a surprise and left me incredulous. I then explained that I had never heard of this restriction and I subsequently scoured the DDA website for guidance on designated Representative.

After much research and consultation with SDAN I found other elements of the current proposal regarding designated representative (DR) that increased my concern-mainly that no family members of the DR could be employed as staff for Francis. Eliminating all immediate family members of the Parental DR as potential employees is profoundly disruptive for this reason: the unfortunate reality of staffing is that there are few people outside of family willing to do this work. As a rule, family is more reliable, committed and achieve the best possible outcome for the individual.

If the appointment of a DR will remove the ability for a parent to communicate with the DDA regional office or any other agency that the individual receives services from, then that person will potentially lose what is most likely their best caregivers and strongest advocates. The goal or mission statement of DDA for a happy and healthy team based on "...providing support for individuals **and their families** to determine what is important to and for them to achieve that goal" is nullified with this restriction. Let us continue to support the "DDA vision of the good life partnering with people with disabilities and their families to provide support and resources to live fulfilling lives" by specifically suspending consideration of the current DR proposal and supporting house Bill 0318.

Sincerely,

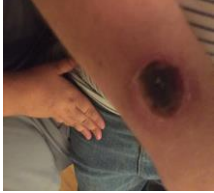
Kenneth Garove *Mary Grelli*

Mary Grelli, Kenneth Garove
Parents of Francis

I support HB 318 and SB441

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

My Good Life



Self-injury

Because of Self-Direction I can develop a daily schedule with enough flexibility in it to help me stay calm.

I have intermittent Explosive disorder. I'm like the guy who has road rage. I become very self-injurious and have many scars on my hands and arms. One size fits all programs cause my anxiety to build because I do not always understand what they want me to do.

But in self-direction services my support people are able to reshuffle my activities and provide me with time and space to calm myself. I'm controlling myself in self-direction especially since I've had a behavioral plan designed for me.

*My family & I support the **Self-Direction Act** because Choice and self-determination make for a Good Life*



Special Olympics

I Support the Self-Direction Act because... it will restore self-direction to the flexible program it once was and allow me to maintain control over my plan and my supports and my life

This is important to me because... In May 2019 my medications stop supporting me and I almost ended up in a residential placement. My parents got little support from DDA during my 15 month crises. Because I am self-directing, my parents found resources that slowly turned my trajectory around. I'm now participating with staff confidently and calmly, I have a spelling system I use to express my anxieties, thoughts and choices. I am going into the community and, although I still self-injury, I have fewer episodes that are lasting for shorter periods of time. Self-directed service has given me back quality of life. Please give me more control over my plan so I can continue to flourish. Support HB318 because it will:

- **C**reate a strong Advisory Council to re-establish the principles of self-direction and DDA accountability
- **A**llow participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estore the participants' right to choose a support broker as their primary advocate
- **E**nsure participant choice and control of all services
- **M**andate that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

#CARE Maryland

Name
Address
Contact Information
Election District

Dear Sir or Madam,

We urge you to protect The Maryland Disabilities Self-Direction program by supporting and passing bill HB 318.

We have a 29-year-old son with severe disabilities who has been using self-direction. Since he started with self-direction, he has been doing much better, has a better sense of purpose and self-worth, and is able to remain living with us rather than move to a group home (which he does not want to do).

Since he has been in self-direction, he has been able to get a part time paying job cleaning eggs at a farm. He would not be able to do any job alone or even with periodic checks. He needs help all the time and must always have a responsible person with him for his safety. We never thought he would be able to get a job, but with self-direction he has been able to.

However, it is always challenging to find good people to work with him. It is also very challenging to keep them since they generally have this job as a temporary career situation. Either they go back to school or get a job with better pay and a better future for them. In two years we have gone through four different care givers.

This has not been easy for us, but the ability to have me, his mother, step in as support staff and fill the vacancies has been critical. I have been able to take the role as his caregiver including going to and helping him with his volunteer and job positions. It would be very difficult if this program were not available for us.

Also, since the onset of COVID we have not been able to hire and use additional helpers because he has a compromised immune system. He currently has one helper who goes with him to his job at the farm three days a week for several hours. She also has a compromised system and is also very careful. The job cleaning eggs does not have them interact with any other people, so we feel they are pretty safe there. However, she does not feel safe coming into our house, and we understand and agree, so all other weekly services are currently performed by me.

In addition to being able to be part of his care network it is also important that we are able to continue to use a support broker to help navigate the self-direction program, which can be hard.

Passing Bill HB 318 will help Daniel live his life in the best way he can!

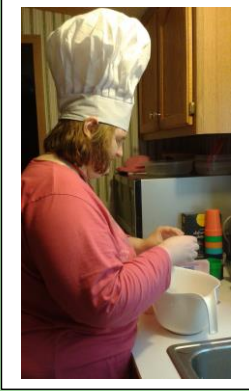
Thank You,
Colleen, Brian and Daniel O'Mara



I support HB318

Developmental Disabilities Administration -- Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act)

My Self Directed Life



Self-direction is important to me because I can count on continuity with my staff. They work with me to make good choices in activities and in daily living.

I can make changes in my staff and use as many hours as my budget allows.

I can use family as staff. They help me meet the purpose of the Program. This also avoids having to frequently orient new staff. I also get more help than the hours budgeted.

Choice and Control Matter to Me!



I support the Self-Direction bill because:

- It provides for self-direction and DDA accountability
- It allows me to continue to include family members as support staff.
- I have made progress in language and ADLs since working with my staff in the program.
- It would help me get my Support Broker back so I can meet and have use of all aspects of the Program correctly.
- It insures participant choice of all services as well as being budget friendly to the State.

Courtney Litzenberger
8033 Fair Breeze Drive
Severn, MD 21144
Ruth.litz@comcast.net
District 33

My Self Directed Life



*Choice and Control
Matter to Me!*



Carmen Houston-Ludlam

PO Box 429

Lothian, MD 20711

Mom's Cell: 443-994-0902

ginger.hl@runningspringsfarm.com

Legislative District: 30B

Self-Direction is important to me because...

- I like to decide what I am going to do with my time instead of having to do what someone else tells me.
- I have a lot of interests, like
 - Ventriloquism- I hope to be on America's Got Talent someday
 - Snowboarding- I love to snowboard, and this year I will be able to volunteer as an instructor trainee to help other people with I/DD learn to snowboard.
 - England and Fashion- I love everything about England, and I am saving up my money from my job at MOD Pizza to go to London. I really admire a British fashion model and TV presenter named Holly Willoughby and I like to take pictures of myself wearing similar outfits and posting those pictures on Instagram.
 - Dancing- I love to dance, and I am really proud of my gold medal at the Special Olympics Summer Games in Abu Dhabi in 2019. I was Wonder Woman- one of my favorite superheroes!
- I like having someone that I choose help me do the things I love. My aide Angel is close to my age, and I love to share my interests with her and hang out with her.
- I am proud that I can make my own decisions.



I support the Self-Direction bill because it will protect my ability to self-direct my services. I love my life!

#CARE Md



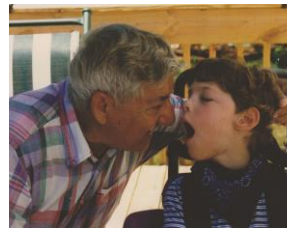
My Self-Directed Life



Francis with DN

Because of Self-Direction I can choose my Personal Supports staff. I can spend time with people I like. I can go to music therapy and Bingo every week. I can go shopping, take drives and go to medical appointments with my staff. I have chosen to self-direct so that I can control what I do and when I do it. I especially like music therapy, walking in my neighborhood and Bingo.

*Choice and Control Matter
Matter to Me!*



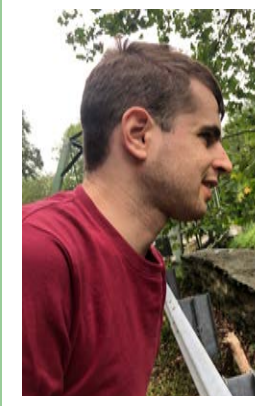
Francis Garove
18 Flintlock Ct.
Perry Hall, MD 21128
Election District

What will the Self-Direction HB-0318 and SB-0441 do?

- Keep DDA accountable.
- Continue to allow family as advocates without restricting family as direct support staff
- Allow participants to choose and have funded activities of their choice as it is designated in their plan
- Mandate that anyone eligible for DDA services can self-direct

#CARE Md

My Self-Directed Life



Self-direction is important to me because...

Controlling how I spend my day makes me happy. Everyday can be unique.

I can experience new places in the community when the timing is right for me.

I hire employees that truly care about me and help me achieve my goals.

I have been able to safely maintain some of my time in the community even during Covid 19.

I am learning to be more independent at home and that feels great.

I can change my program as I gain more independence because I have a team that support me.

Choice and Control Of My Day Matter to Me!



Al Wopat
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- Historically **self-direction** has saved the state money while providing remarkable outcomes for people with developmental disabilities. **HB 0318 will preserve that by:**
- **C**reating a strong Advisory Council to re-establish the principles of self-direction and DDA accountability
- **A**llowing participants to continue to include family members as support staff
- **R**estoring the participants' right to choose a support broker as their primary fiduciary
- **E**nsuring participant choice and control of all services
- **M**andating that *anyone* eligible for DDA services can self-direct

#CAREMd