

Monday, March 7, 2022

Senate Finance Committee

SB 868- Developmental Disabilities Administration – Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act of 2022)

Position: Favorable

We would like to register our support for SB868 and Self-Directed Advocacy Network (SDAN) Goals.

Goals:

- To achieve greater equity by ensuring that people in disadvantaged communities, those with language barriers and those who lack robust family supports can also access SD
- To restore and maintain flexibility and access to SD while retaining cost-savings
- To ensure that anyone be deemed capable of self-directing with the needed supports

My son, Robert, has been thriving on the Self-Directed Services (SD) since 2008. Robert tried 3 years of support from 2 traditional provider unsuccessfully from 2005 to 2008. The first traditional provider dropped Robert without warning at one of the most difficult periods of his life. Self-Directed Services has allowed Robert to grow at his own pace and not have to fit into the limitations of provider-based services. Because of the flexibility of Self-Direction, Robert is able to work his part-time job at Goodwill with ongoing supports as needed, gain in independence in community related chores, and live in his own apartment. Self-Directed services were especially important during the COVID pandemic as he could make choices based on his own needs and still safely work and have normal interactions with his family and staff while still practicing safety protocols.

Please vote to recommend passage of this bill out of committee. As a parent of our son, Robert, with a developmental disability, I ask for your uncompromising support of our right to choose the types and intensity of supports and services we receive, so that we have control over how we want to live our own lives.

Thank you!

Reda Sheinberg