

Dear Chairman Guy Guzzone
Vice Chair Jim Rosapepe
Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

Re: SB0362

**Please remove from this bill any reference to Article-Health-General Section 7-101 and Section 7-409.
Please leave all the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 (the Act) intact.**

My daughter receives DDA waiver services under the self-directed service model. The changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverse a major provision of the Self-Direction Act of 2022, a law that helps assure parity between provider-managed and self-directed services. As the parent of a young adult who has flourished under self-direction, I want to do everything in my power to preserve and protect self-direction!

My concern is that the changes proposed in the above referenced bill reverse a major provision of the Self-Direction Act of 2022. The changes would allow DDA to

establish an *arbitrary* limit on Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services (IFDGS).

This cap will have a detrimental effect on my daughter's independence, community inclusion, health, and safety. IFDGS spending does not add additional funds, it merely allows access to the approved funds within the budget.

IFDGS is part of my daughter's approved plan and budget based on her assessed supports needs-direct services such as Personal supports, Community Integration, Job Supports. The rates for these services are set by DDA. The funds in the budget generated for her needs should be available to my daughter.

My daughter currently uses IFDGS funds to pay for a Community Builder who has helped her build her communication and relationship skills which have helped her expand her network of friends. She has also hired a Day-to-Day Administrator to begin to take on some of the tasks I do, so that when I am no longer capable (I am 79 and have Parkinson's), there will be someone on her team to step into my role. I should not need to tell you how putting an arbitrary cap on IFDGS will negatively impact my daughter now and in the future!

There is already a natural limit to my daughter's spending based on the amount in her budget. IFDGS is within the allocation of the approved budget. It is used to reach the outcomes and goals of my daughter's person-centered plan.

Please keep the provisions of the Self Direction Act of 2022 intact!

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