

HB1053_Self_Directed_Services_Parent_Providers_MLC

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR HB1053

Developmental Disabilities Administration – Self-Directed Services – Parent Providers

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Buckel

Committee: Finance

Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1053 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Our Coalition members are very supportive of their fellow Marylanders, and especially those whose children have developmental disabilities. We applaud the legislature for enacting the Self-Directed Services model that allows those with developmental disabilities to choose the kind of services they need and the providers of those services.

We also applaud Delegate Buckel for recognizing the obvious, that many parents are the best people to provide the services and the care required by their children.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition fully supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

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Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Senator Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 1053 - Developmental Disabilities Administration - Self-Directed Services - Parent Providers - Letter of Information

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (“Department”) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 1053 - Developmental Disabilities Administration - Self-Directed Services - Parent Providers. HB 1053 would add the word “parent” to the group of individuals allowed to provide services within the Self-Directed Services delivery model, alongside existing text allowing a “family member” or “legal guardian” to provide services.

The Department wishes to provide the Committee with clarifying information regarding its practices related to Self-Directed Services. The three Medicaid 1915(c) home and community-based services waiver programs operated by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (Community Pathways, Community Supports, and Family Supports) include parents within the definition of “relatives”. Within these programs, relatives, including parents, are generally allowed to provide services, subject to certain restrictions. As a result, the Developmental Disabilities Administration does not anticipate changes to its existing federally-approved waiver programs or policies as a result of HB 1053, should it become law.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs, at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran".

Ryan Moran, Dr. P.H., MHSA
Acting Secretary

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Position: INFO



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

Senate Finance Committee

March 25, 2025

HB 1053: Developmental Disabilities Administration - Self-Directed Services

Position: Letter of Information



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The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

WHAT does this bill do?

- States it will amend MD Code, Health - General, § 7-409. Recipients of self-directed services, subsection (a)(4) to specify that a “Parent” may provide a DDA participant with direct services.
- States that it will amend subsection (a)(4)(i) to specify that a DDA participant may choose a “Parent” or “Legal Guardian” to provide direct services if it is the choice of the participant, or their authorized representative and they have a supports broker.
- Only permits parents, family members, or legal guardians to provide the services if the services are authorized to be provided by the parent, another family member, or the legal guardian of the recipient by an administration waiver approved by CMS.

Many DDA participants, both people in self-directed services (SDS) and participants that hire through an agency, rely on family members, including their parents, and legal guardians to provide them with their direct care.

Health-General 7-409(a)(4) already specifies family members, which includes parents and legal guardians, may provide direct services with the same conditions that a participant has a supports broker, and it is the participant or their authorized representative’s choice. This is only one condition relating to family and legal guardian caregivers, but there exists additional conditions and applicable service restrictions.

MD Code, Health - General, § 7-401. Rules and regulations, specifies that the Secretary of Health shall adopt rules and regulations to govern DDA’s services and programs. However, the applicable regulations under COMAR 10.09.26 and COMAR 10.22 have not been fully updated in decades, with some subtitles and chapters that have not been updated since July 26, 1999 (26:15 Md. R. 1148).

Rather, DDA has issued a [SDS manual](#) and [policy](#) that went into effect late 2024 and have already been amended several times. Until comprehensive regulations are implemented, the SDS manual and policy are the resources to find definitions, conditions for services, and applicable services restrictions.

For more information, contact any member of the DD Coalition.