

HB 1244/ SB 1027  
Health & Government Operations/Rules  
DDA/Establish Waiver Advisory Council  
Karen Bowers LCSW-C  
**Monday March 3, 2025**

Thank you for allowing me to share my concerns in this written testimony.

My name is Karen Bowers. I live in Hagerstown Md. My daughter Jennifer is 34 and has been self-directing for the past 12 years.

**I am writing in support of HB 1244 and SB 1027 to establish a Developmental Disabilities Waiver Advisory Council**

I believe this Council will provide for a more balanced and fairer platform for stakeholders.

Our family has experienced few options for giving feedback to the DDA regarding our Waiver Input.

Generally, the current DDA leadership has sought our feedback only when required to do so.

The current federal climate also indicates the possibility of more restrictions on CMS Public Comment to come.

This legislation will support stakeholder feedback and improve the quality of this feedback regardless of current Federal trends away from transparency.

Thank you.

Karen Bowers /Jennifer Bowers  
20242 Huntington Ct.  
Hagerstown, MD 21742