

Testimony
HB 1244 Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council –
3 Establishment
Favorable
March 5, 2025

Beth Gude/Caroline Munro

I am writing on behalf of my daughter, Caroline Munro, who self-directs her DDA Waiver services. Caroline has successfully self-directed her services for about 10 years. Self-direction is not easy! But it is well worth the effort for both Caroline and her team.

Recent changes to policies, published in November 2024, without public input or warning, has created chaos and confusion for participants. Earlier this year, DDA did put in place a Waiver Advisory Council that is led and governed by DDA; representation on that Council is less inclusive than what is proposed by HB1244. HB 1244 offers the opportunity, and requirement, for substantial input by the broad stakeholder community to ensure effective service delivery systems.

As the State struggles with current budget shortfalls, the DDA Waiver Advisory Council offers an opportunity for stakeholders to gather to determine potential cost savings opportunities without harm to participants.

A big thank you to Delegate Guyton for submission of this legislation.

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