

Patient Portfolio: Kangyi Lee

DDA-SDS-Parent Providers

HB1053

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 - 1:00 PM

Name: **Kangyi Lee**, a current member of KADPA (Korean American Disabled People's Association)

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Age: 12 years old

Gender: Male

Mental Age: 24 months

Communication: Non-verbal

Social Preferences: Enjoys interacting with people, loves social engagement

Medical & Developmental Conditions:

- Severe Intellectual Disabilities
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (awaiting autism waiver)
- Swallowing Disorder: Currently has a feeding tube; must avoid oral swallowing
- Motor Coordination Challenges: Able to walk but has imbalance
- Seizure Disorder: Under medication to manage seizures

Current Support & Services:

- Receives Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), and Speech Therapy (ST) multiple times per week.
- Although Kangyi Lee is not yet participating in the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Self-Directed Services (SDS) program due to his age, his family recognizes the importance of this program for his future care needs.

Why Self-Directed Services (SDS) Matters:

Self-Directed Services (SDS) under the DDA program allows individuals with disabilities and their families to have more control over their care, enabling them to choose services that best fit their needs.

For Kangyi Lee, SDS provides:

- **Personalized Care:** Ensures he receives therapies and support tailored to his unique medical and developmental challenges.
- **Flexibility:** Allows his family to hire qualified caregivers who understand his condition and needs.
- **Enhanced Quality of Life:** Provides structured engagement opportunities and specialized services essential for his development and well-being.
- **Safety and Stability:** Helps manage his medical conditions with appropriate support, reducing risks related to swallowing and seizures.

Kangyi Lee and his family have significant concerns about the ongoing budget cuts to Maryland's DDA-SDS program. These reductions threaten his future access to vital services that support his health, development, and overall well-being. Without sufficient funding, his family may struggle to provide the necessary care and support he requires daily.

Call to Action:

We urge policymakers and the public to:

- **Advocate Against SDS Budget Cuts:** Contact state representatives and express concerns about the impact of these cuts on individuals like Kangyi Lee.
- **Support Families with Special Needs:** Recognize the importance of SDS in allowing families to manage complex care needs effectively.
- **Engage with Disability Advocacy Groups:** Join efforts to protect funding for essential services that enable individuals with disabilities to lead safe and dignified lives.

Kangyi Lee and his family rely on the Self-Directed Services program to maintain his quality of life. It is imperative to protect and strengthen these services rather than reduce them. Your voice matters—stand with Kangyi and thousands of other individuals in need of support.