

Name: Seungwoo Han

Date of Birth: August 29, 2001 (24 years old)

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Diagnosis: Autism, Dravet Syndrome (Severe Epilepsy Disorder)

Service: DDA Self-Directed Services (SDS)

Background & Challenges Before SDS:

- **Severe epilepsy and developmental delays** since infancy.
- As he grew older, his **intellectual disability and epilepsy worsened**.
- Underwent **deep brain surgery**, but it did not improve his condition.
- **Severe side effects from anti-epileptic medications** left him **unable to stand or walk for three years**, forcing him to rely on a wheelchair.
- Caring for Seungwoo became **physically and emotionally overwhelming** for his family.
- His parents **had to relocate** from a **third-floor apartment** due to the difficulties of lifting and assisting him.
- His parents also **struggled to maintain employment** due to his high care needs.
- When he turned **21**, his family sought **DDA services** but was unable to find an agency that could **meet his complex medical and physical needs**.

Improvements After SDS (Personalized 1:1 Support):

- **Regained the ability to walk**, though he still requires constant supervision.
- **Actively participates in community activities**, improving his well-being and independence:
 - **Swimming** to improve mobility and manage his physical condition.
 - **Fitness training** to regain strength and endurance.
 - **Church gatherings** for social engagement, emotional stability, and spiritual support.
- **Increased quality of life**, with a greater sense of happiness and engagement in daily activities.
- **Family stability improved**, as his parents are now able to **provide dedicated care** while maintaining a structured and manageable daily routine.

Why SDS Matters:

- **Provides essential, highly specialized care** for individuals with complex medical needs.
- **Restores mobility and independence**, allowing individuals like Seungwoo to engage with their communities.
- Prevents families from **falling into crisis due to lack of appropriate services**.

- **Without SDS, individuals like Seungwoo would lose access to life-changing support**, potentially reversing his hard-earned progress.

Call to Action:

Protect DDA funding to ensure continued support for individuals like Seungwoo!