



March 5, 2025

**HB 1053 - Developmental Disabilities Administration - Self-Directed Services - Parent Providers
House Health and Government Operations Committee**

Position: Support

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shari Bailey and I am a parent of a child with Jacobsen Syndrome. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1053 (HB1053), which clarifies that parents, family members, and legal guardians may provide self-directed services under the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) program.

As a parent, I understand firsthand the unique and complex needs of my child. Every day, I navigate the challenges of ensuring that they receive the highest quality of care, support, and resources to lead a fulfilling and independent life. HB1053 acknowledges the critical role that parents and close family members play in providing personalized care that is often difficult to replicate through external service providers.

Key Benefits of HB1053:

- **Continuity of Care:** Parents and close family members are often the most consistent caregivers in a recipient's life. Allowing them to serve as providers ensures that services are delivered with deep personal knowledge and long-term commitment.
- **Choice and Flexibility:** The bill empowers individuals with developmental disabilities to make informed decisions about their care, giving them the right to choose a parent or family member as their service provider if they believe it is in their best interest.



- **Qualified and Committed Providers:** No one understands the specific needs, preferences, and communication methods of a recipient better than their family. Parents and guardians often undergo extensive training and experience through daily caregiving, making them highly qualified providers.
- **Filling Critical Gaps in Care:** Maryland, like many states, faces workforce shortages in disability care services. By allowing parents and family members to participate in the self-directed care model, this bill helps address staffing challenges and ensures uninterrupted service provision.
- **Accountability and Oversight:** The requirement for a support broker ensures that services provided by parents and family members remain professional, effective, and in the best interest of the recipient.

This legislation does not mandate that parents provide services but simply grants families the option to do so when it is in the best interest of their loved ones. It represents a practical, compassionate, and necessary step to enhance the self-directed care model under the DDA.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to give HB1053 a favorable report. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shari Bailey
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