

SB583  
February 24, 2026  
Ellen Jennings  
Support with Amendments

I strongly support this bill with the following amendments: that it cover all DDA participants (not just Self-Directed) and apply to all DDA Policy, not just the Self-Directed Services Manual.

## Is This A Partnership?

**Maryland Participants in Self-Direction and Their Teams Deserve Notice. Stability. Respect.**

Maryland's Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) describes its relationship with participants, families and teams as a partnership. But partnership requires effective communication, transparency, and collaborative action.

### Major DDA Policy Changes — Minimal Notice

- Self-Directed Services Manual – 14 days' notice (Oct 24, 2024 – Nov 7, 2024)
- Self-Directed Services Manual – 14 days' notice (Oct 24, 2024 – Nov 7, 2024)
- Revised Manual – About 2 weeks' notice (April 2025 – May 9, 2025)
- Waiver Amendment – 30-day public comment (June 9, 2025)
- New Manual – 16 days' notice (Sept 21, 2025 – Oct 7, 2025)
- New Policy – Effective BEFORE public notice (Feb 4, 2026 announcement)

### This Is Not Sustainable

- Rebuilding services in days
- Adjusting staffing and budgets overnight
- Responding to complex policy shifts without input
- Maintaining stability while rules repeatedly change

### SB583/HB1593: A Step Toward Transparency

- Requires public notice before changes to the Self-Directed Services Manual
- Provides at least 90 days for public comment
- Prohibits adoption of changes until the comment period ends

### Legislators: Support SB583/HB1593

It is time for the Developmental Disabilities Administration to provide meaningful public notice and opportunity for comment whenever there are changes—or proposes to change—the terms and conditions under which individuals receive services, or alters the scope, duration, or delivery of those services, whether through regulation, policy, practice, or procedure.

**Partnership means listening. Planning together. Time to prepare.**



Please visit [CCSDSMD.org](https://CCSDSMD.org)  
or contact us at [ccsdsm@gmail.com](mailto:ccsdsm@gmail.com).



Concerned Citizens of  
Self-Direction Maryland  
Community. Choice. Accountability