

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I am in favor of SB0583. Starting in October 2024, my daughter, Emma Wynne, has been receiving Medicaid Waiver Services from the DDA through the Self-Directed Services model. In that short time, the Self-Directed Manual has been changed twice, with very little time for meaningful input from stakeholders. Often times the changes contradict the Self-Direction Act of 2022. Every time the DDA “proposes” changes, their intent already seems etched in stone, without genuinely regarding the consequences on Marylanders with disabilities or thinking through how the changes will affect the community and those who support them. Changes are rushed, without proper time for Self-Directed participants and the agencies who provide services to prepare and learn about the amendments before they go into effect.

The Coordinators Community of Services (CCS), the Fiscal Management providers, Nursing Services, and Behavioral Support Providers do not receive proper training on the changes. Nor do the service providers have ample time to adjust to the new requirements. When the DDA is not transparent or accountable about decisions made, decisions that directly affect participants and families, health and safety are compromised. Here is an excerpt from a statement we received from Emma’s Behavioral Support Services provider,

“As of **October 6, 2025**, DDA implemented major revisions to provider requirements, enrollment, and ongoing compliance under the updated *Self-Directed Services Manual* and *2025 Waiver Changes*. These updates require all individual Behavioral Support Services practitioners—including Board Certified Behavior Analysts—to complete **DDA certification and ePREP Medicaid enrollment** as individual providers by the established deadlines. The changes also introduce expanded documentation, quarterly training attestations, and programmatic compliance standards that significantly affect independent clinical capacity.

In order to remain in compliance and continue providing high-quality, meaningful services within these new parameters, I must **reduce my caseload** to a more sustainable level. Unfortunately, this means I will **no longer be able to provide Behavioral Support Services for Emma.**”

While the new systems and requirements will hopefully strengthen service delivery for individuals under DDA, rushing and mandating without preparation is irresponsible.

Emma has now been without Behavior Supports Services since November 4, 2025. We have found a new provider, but in order for them to start services, Emma’s Person Centered Plan and Budget needed to be revised and approved. This always takes **so much** longer than it should. We are still awaiting plan approval and Emma remains in limbo without behavior services.

Please support SB0583 to ensure Marylanders with disabilities using the Self-Directed Model are not put in harm’s way due to DDA’s lack of transparency, accountability and willingness to listen to the community it serves.

Thank you,
Lara Wynne

