

Testimony For Bill SB583

Dear Senator Jennings and other members of the committee,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me today.

I am Anne Hollenshade Smith.

I live in Towson, Maryland.

My child is Patrick. He suffers from Autism and mental retardation, along with other needs.

I want to let you know I support your Bill.

But It does not go far enough. DDA has recently notified us of changes by email on February 3rd, 2026, in over 20 different categories. Some of which effected my son directly. Assistive technology and Behavior therapy to name a few. We waited over a year and half to receive start Behavior therapy. It has been very beneficial to Patrick and the family.

We are excited to see the benefits of assistive technology as it takes off. It takes time to get the right app and get it set up.

I am asking you to expand from just the manual to any CHANGES made by DDA. IT must include a 90-day notice be given and community input be necessary. If you exam this email sent on Febuary 3rd alone, you can see how detailed it is. While you are taking care of your loved one, reading all these detailed emails and manuals takes time!

Again, Senator Jennings, Thank you for your Support for Self-Directed Services and for my Son!