

Written Testimony in Support of SB 0583

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mi Lee. I am the mother of an adult son with developmental disabilities, and I am writing in strong support of SB 0583. I also submit this testimony on behalf of 33 Korean families in Maryland who rely on Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Self-Directed Services and are closely following this legislation.

For our families, Self-Directed Services are essential. They allow individuals with developmental disabilities to live safely in their communities while giving families the ability to coordinate and oversee services responsibly. However, the effectiveness of this model depends on transparency, accountability, and consistent oversight.

SB 0583 strengthens these protections. It promotes responsible management of public funds and reinforces safeguards that ensure services are delivered appropriately and sustainably. Clear structure and oversight are not barriers to care — they are what protect participants and preserve trust in the system.

Families already shoulder significant responsibility in managing services, coordinating staff, and maintaining compliance. When systems lack clarity or consistent standards, the burden increases and stability is compromised. Strengthening accountability helps ensure that resources are used as intended and that services remain available for those who depend on them.

On behalf of my son and the 33 Korean families I represent in Maryland, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 0583.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mi Lee

Maryland