

My name is Steven Bress. I have been a Maryland resident for much more than 50 years. I urge you to vote FAVORABLY for SB0742, the "Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Developmental Disabilities Administration - Home- and Community-Based Services Eligibility Determinations (Maryland Protecting People With Disabilities Act)." This will help insure that a simple bureaucratic mishap does not negatively affect those with disabilities.

My son Michael is a Participant in DDA's Self Directed Services (SDS) program. He has been in the SDS program for two and a half years. It is a nerve-wracking time when the Redetermination Packet comes in. This simple packet can dramatically affect our son's life. So far, we have not been disenrolled, but it is a constant source of concern and anxiety.

Michael was originally on the waiting list for services for more than seven years. Under the current methods, any kind of mess up, whether ours or governmental, in processing the redetermination would result in him being sent back to the end of the waiting list. The associated loss of services would put him at risk for severe emotional and physical harm, and increase his odds of institutionalization. No one should want this. Certainly not over a paperwork issue that could be resolved with proper communication and feedback, or timely processing of paperwork.

I respectfully urge you to vote favorably for SB0742.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven Bress
Germantown, MD