

MICHELE GUYTON  
Legislative District 42B  
Baltimore County

—  
Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation  
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 12, 2026

**Favorable – HB 1593**

**Developmental Disabilities Administration - Self-Directed Services Manual - Public Comment**

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison and Members of Health Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of HB 1593. This bill will increase awareness and participation in the regulatory process for families that depend on DDA waiver services. Families who rely on Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) services are deeply affected by the policies and procedures outlined in the Self-Directed Services Manual. These policies shape how individuals with developmental disabilities access supports, manage services, and maintain stability in their daily lives. When changes are made to the manual without meaningful opportunities for input, families and self-advocates can face sudden shifts in services, expectations, or processes that directly impact their ability to safely and effectively manage care.

Self-direction is meant to give individuals with developmental disabilities and their families more control over their lives and supports. When rules change without warning or input, families are left scrambling to understand new requirements that affect their care, their staffing, and their stability. For these reasons, HB 1593 ensures that families and individuals with developmental disabilities have input before the Self-Directed Services Manual is updated.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton