

H3900 Amendments

Representative Sean Garballey | 5.6 Mil for Day and Work **#1288**

Representative O'Day | No People Left Behind **#1535**

Representative John Lawn | Operation House Call **#778**

Representative Carmen Gentile | Self Direction **#589**

The facts:

1. Our workforce crisis in disability services (Dept Developmental Services (DDS) and MassHealth is severe and worsened by the endemic.
2. Thousands of individuals are impacted and have experienced anywhere from 12 to 37 months of isolation and lack of access to day services.
3. The largest sub-group who have not been served since March 2020 are those who need 1:1 support, part or all of day.
4. When DDS agrees to provide individuals with additional funds, this is typically done through self-directed options. But the participants are not allowed to exercise full budget authority and the state agency oversteps it's monitoring function. For example, participants cannot hire facilitators to assist nor able to purchase services or staff through an organization if it exceeds an arbitrary cap even if they have budget monies. In one case, a participant was told reimbursement couldn't be used toward a cab because there was a public transit option.

#1535:

- This language encourages DDS to proactively implement FY'23 "Bridge to the future" language
- It restores account transferability as in 2023
- Includes DDS-eligible MassHealth day habilitation participants in addition to DDS day services participants.

#1288:

- Provides one pathway for DDS-eligible persons needing 1:1 services who have not returned (fully or partially) to day services at DDS or MassHealth, with an additional \$5.6 Million to DDS, and language providing funding at the highest DDS day rate (A rate) to day or day habilitation provider.

#589

- Requires DDS implement regulations within 90 days which are consistent with the "Real Lives" law, and specifically reinforces "budget authority" by not allowing arbitrary limits in the purchase of support or goods, and requires that appeal timelines be consistent with appeal timelines which DDS allows for individual support plans.

#778

- Advances health equity by supporting the education of medical and graduate students in the Commonwealth through an existing program, Operation House Call.