



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES**

January 14, 2016

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your interest in Bill 21-385, the “*Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities Civil Rights Restoration Act*.” DDS heard from some of you at different community forums and through calls and letters. As you know, this bill does two important things for people with intellectual disabilities. First, for people with intellectual disabilities, the bill ends the practice of civilly committing people with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities as a requirement to receiving certain residential services under the Medicaid program. Second, the bill recognizes supported decision-making as a less restrictive alternative to guardianship, which supports people with a range of disabilities to make as many decisions as they are able about their own lives.

Based on conversations with the community, we are offering several amendments that address the two main areas of concern: that (1) the decision to voluntarily continue or terminate commitment should be intentional and not automatic; and (2) committed persons without family support should have more options available to help support them in deciding whether to continue or terminate their own commitment. Please find attached, proposed amendments, and a Frequently Asked Question sheet. I hope you will find this information helpful to understand the bill and the proposed amendments.

A hearing on the bill is scheduled before the Committees on Health and Human Services and the Judiciary on January 27, 2016 at 11 am in Room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building. If you have any other questions or want to discuss the bill or amendments further, please contact, Omonigho Ufomata, DDS Legislative and Policy Analyst at (202) 527 4686 or via email, [omonigho.ufomata@dc.gov](mailto:omonigho.ufomata@dc.gov).

Thank you and I look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Nuss

