

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the DD community.

The DD Waiver gives us a choice. Many people, including me, would be coerced into a group home setting instead of integrated into affordable living situations if we were served by the MR Waiver. Also, people who use the MR Waiver system are often steered towards providers that the CSB prefers rather than allowing a true choice among services and providers. The DD Waiver assures that we can receive services without any consideration of provider's preference.

Having this flexible waiver has given me the opportunity to live a life in my community. Without it, I would be sitting in Day Support. I just graduated from college with a degree in Information Technology Systems. Not only is this a personal achievement, but it is an achievement for my family as well. I am the first person in my family to have graduated from college. I made this goal while living by myself, which this waiver allows me to do. I also have the ability to vacation out of town for weeks if I so choose.

In closing, please think about how you enjoy free choice of lifestyle and this is what the DD Waiver means to us.