

No. 10

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 35)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Disabled in Action's Self Advocacy Training Project

FOR the purpose of commending the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council for its support of the Self Advocacy Training Project, and to direct the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to develop additional self advocacy programs.

WHEREAS, Disabled in Action's Self Advocacy Training Project is dedicated to serving the needs, interests, and advocacy issues of all persons with developmental and physical disabilities throughout the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Persons with developmental disabilities have the right to receive training and support in learning the skills necessary to advocate on their own behalf for human and legal rights; and

WHEREAS, Persons with developmental disabilities have the right to self-representation, to their own unified platform of self-representation, and access to joining a peer support advocacy group; and

WHEREAS, The State has supported the deinstitutionalization of developmentally disabled persons in favor of a community-based human services system; and

WHEREAS, For this system to truly provide relevant services it must include the disabled consumers in the decision making processes; and

WHEREAS, The goal of all community programs should be the increased independence and self-representation for those persons involved in the programs; and

WHEREAS, Disabled in Action has established, with funding from the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, a successful statewide Self Advocacy Training Project; and

WHEREAS, Through the Self Advocacy Training Project, over 400 persons with disabilities have joined Self Advocacy Groups throughout Maryland and are learning how to work together in spirit, teamwork, and new determination; and

WHEREAS, This Self Advocacy Training Project is one of the few in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The State Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities Administration views Self Advocacy as an important future direction for State services; now, therefore, be it