

## Arizona APSE Chapter

### Association of People Supporting Employment First

*Mission: To expand inclusive employment opportunities for all people with disabilities through education, advocacy and legislative action.*



---

#### Arizona Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Statement Against SB1411

The Arizona Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE), shares our statement against Senate Bill 1411. Arizona APSE is a local chapter of the only national volunteer membership organization focused exclusively on Employment First to facilitate the full inclusion of people with disabilities, including significant disabilities, in the workplace and community.

SB1411 in Arizona is a concerning piece of legislation that poses a significant threat to the autonomy and personal agency of young adults who have received services pursuant to Title 36, Chapter 5.1. By automatically granting guardianship to the primary caregiver of a minor child upon the child's eighteenth birthday, this bill denies individuals the right to make their own decisions and exercise their own free will.

Guardianship should not be granted automatically, but rather, should be based on a careful evaluation of the individual's capacity and ability to make their own decisions. This evaluation should be conducted with the individual's input, and with consideration of their wishes, beliefs, and values.

Furthermore, this bill could potentially expose vulnerable individuals to abuse or neglect, as it grants significant power and control to a single individual without sufficient oversight or accountability measures. It also ignores the fact that some young adults may have relationships with other caregivers, such as grandparents, siblings, or friends, who may be better suited to serve as their guardian.

In conclusion, SB1411 is a flawed and problematic piece of legislation that undermines the principles of autonomy, agency, and individual choice. It should be opposed on ethical and legal grounds to protect the rights and well-being of young adults in Arizona.

*Respectfully submitted by the 2023 Arizona APSE Board of Directors*