

Rebecca Buck

From: Loretta Marriott <lmariot@uvm.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 9:32 AM
To: SENATE_APPROPRIATIONS
Subject: Please preserve PDAC funding

Hello Senators,

I am sending this message from my sister Brenda Viana who is quadriplegic and lives at home with 24 hour caregiver support.

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Greetings Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Thank you so much for saving funding for folks like me with severe disabilities. I'm hoping this includes Vermont's Participant Directed Attendant Care (PDAC). This was a plan created by Vermonters for Vermonters to assist our most vulnerable that have fallen through the cracks of federal program requirements.

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Brenda Viana. I have advanced MS. My caregivers take care of transferring me with a lift sling many times a day. They shop for and cook my food and help me with dressing and personal care. Thanks to Vermonters supporting (PDAC) I live at home in Colchester with my pets. I am dependent upon my Vermont caregivers that the Governor plans to eliminate.

I worked all my adult life teaching and saved regularly. The demands of MS are huge and have depleted my assets, all except I still have my home. My stubborn independence is a strength that sustains me.

I was a very active person. Although I have mobility limitations, my will and creativity keep me finding projects and friendships. Local Meals on Wheels volunteers give me much more than food. For a home confined person, they bring a daily "Hello", a smile and emotional support as well as a primary watchful concern. I give them flowers from my garden.

I hope you do everything you can to retain funding for the PDAC program and Meals on Wheels.

Thank you very much,
Brenda Dow Viana
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