

From: Marla McQuiston <marlamcquiston@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 2:14 PM
To: jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us
Subject: [External] PARENT REQUEST - 10% MEDICAID INCREASE

[External]

Thanks again for talking with me on March 15th when our Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative came to the statehouse to speak to legislators. In the last 2 weeks we have had a few parents testify to the needs for 10% Medicaid increase as well as housing. We are listening to the videos to see if there is anything else to say to convince our Senators to vote for the 10% Medicaid rate increase:)

I am just writing to repeat that we desperately need wage increases to hire and retain Direct Support Professionals to provide support services.

My husband and I are the parents of an 25 yr old young man with an intellectual / developmental disability (I/DD), and it is really hard on him (and us) when there is a change in his support staff. Although this year, he has had only 3-4 hrs/week instead of his budgeted 25hrs/week, so we are spending the time to take him to special Olympics, activities, and work to make sure he is staying involved with people. Because we both work, it means that I am working less and earning less to take care of him.

We are part of the Developmental Disability Housing Initiative. Our group of 100+ families are also asking for an Annualized Rate Review for HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES (HCBS), so that these rates would be automatically reviewed and keep up with inflation every year.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Direct Support Professionals are valued essential workers for our adult children and families. Higher compensation and an annualized rate review are necessary to stay competitive with other healthcare sectors and with McDonalds!! Developmental services have been underfunded for way too long. WAGES NEED TO IMPROVE!

We appreciate your time and efforts to support this increase and would be happy to do anything else to help move this through the budget!!

Thank you,

Tim and Marla McQuiston

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