

Submitter: Chelsea Gerlach
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB91

Parents are the best caregivers of their disabled children and should not be barred from receiving payments that are already approved for employing attendants. A temporary waiver during the Covid-19 resulted in healthier safer children and more stability for families dealing with serious medical needs. The program should be continued in it's current form, as is done in many other states.

While this bill seeks a permanent waiver, it was written without input from parents currently in the program and creates even more burdensome bureaucratic obstacles that would benefit social service agencies at the expense of families struggling to care for high-need children.

In my own family, I have seen how much time and energy it takes to access government help for my nephew with cerebral palsy who needs assistance with basic tasks of daily living. Layers of gate-keeping waste tax-payer dollars leaving crumbs for the real needs of disabled children.

Any child who is eligible for in-home support should be able to have those hours covered by a parent. Parents should not be subject to more stringent rules or training than employee caregivers. The 30% agency cap is arbitrary red tape that would override what is best for the child, which should be the priority.