

Submitter: Angela Fleming

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB91

2/3/2023

Chair Gelser Bloulin, Vice Chair Art Robinson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Angela Fleming and I am in support of SB 91. This is a critical matter and must change! Every parent should be able to be a caregiver for their minor children with attendant care services.

I write this letter today in hopes that someone will hear my grandmother heart. I have two beautiful, smart, and amazing grandsons! Both of my grandsons, experience a variety of diagnoses including , autism, down syndrome, AVSD and a VSD heart defect that needed open surgery, collapsing airway, Fpies, various auto immune diseases, juvenile diabetes, various serious milk, protein allergy, and Colitis disease.

It is very critical that both of my grandson's environment is kept accordingly to the programs that are put in place to keep them healthy, safe , and thriving. As you can see, they each have very critical support needs to keep them healthy and safe. That is a very hard decision for a parent to make to be able to leave their child in the care of another person with all of these medical diagnosis's, some that can become life altering if not followed by the book.

My son keeps two FMLA's open at all times for the children. I have watched my son and daughter in law struggle with finding dependable care. Care that won't bring horrible sickness, discord, steal, or emotional stress on my grandsons to experience yet another caregiver that didn't stay or lied about what type of person they were.

My grandson's access is blocked from utilizing their allotted attendant care services due to living in a rural community and not having the ability to choose from good dependable caregiver options. The solution for my grandchildren to access attendant care would be an option of a paid parent caregiver. I'm asking that each child be served equitable with their own hours available to each child. Not capped at 60 hours per household. Please consider amending the per house hold. Please look at each child individually as they each have their own unique support needs.

I am very passionate and have a drive for anyone that experiences disability and medical diagnoses. I have actually been in this field since 1990, along with my husband. We went to many state conferences, fighting for people with disabilities and attended national and state ORA conferences to learn more about people that experience these types of needs and many more. We also helped aid in the closing

and re-facilitating residents from Fairview into group homes. I witnessed home and community-based services are vital for individuals that experience disabilities and it gives them quality of life and self-determination. We went on to be group home managers and/or directors for the next 20+ years. We now are proud owners of our own foster home for the last ten years.

As you can imagine, my husband and I have seen a lot in our 35+ years of supporting people with many types of abilities and I can say from my personal view if the parent can take care of the child, it is 100 percent the best thing to do in the best interest of any child. Please lift the barriers that are blocking my grandson's and many children from having the most qualified parent caregiver.

Thank you for listening
Angela Fleming
Fleming Foster Care