

Submitter: Sherry Althaus
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Senator: we families who have loved ones with disabilities served under Medicaid (not Medicare) suffer significant discrimination from CMS. During COVID parents & spouses have been allowed to be hired by the homecare agencies to provide personal care services for our loved ones with disabilities under Home & Community Based Services. Now that the PHE is ending, CMS federal regulation 42 CFR 440.167 - Personal care services will prohibit us from caring for our loved ones, yet the homecare agencies don't have any replacements for us. We parents & spouses pass the same background checks, complete the same federally mandated training, and are supervised by the same RNs as all other caregivers - there's no difference between us and other caregivers. Yet in the midst of one of the worst caregiver shortages our nation has seen CMS regulation discriminates against us leaving our loved ones without care and our homes in serious trouble. SB 91 will start to fix this issue. Will you please consider funding this critical bill to keep my family from becoming Homeless.