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RE: Paid Parent Caregiver Policy

To Whom this May concern

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and I would like to take this time to express my support of the "Paid Parent Caregiver Policy." Paid Family Caregivers Policy provides the needed assistance to help families so they may remain in the home caring for their disabled children versus the parent working outside the home. In my practice, I work with both children and adults with emotional and behavioral problems. I am a witness to the difference it has made in several children's life when a parent is able to stay home and provide the care for their child. When parents are given this opportunity to stay home versus working outside the home, they not only are providing quality care to their children, but also meeting that child's emotional needs. Who better to provide for the needs of a disabled child than their parent? When a child's emotional needs are met, I see thriving children. When parents are given the opportunity to stay home and provided with the monetary support of being their child's caregiver, I see thriving parents. A child's healthy development depends on their parents. Paid Parent Caregiver Policy can give families the opportunity to stay connected and they can give that child a better quality of life because the mental health of children relates to their connection with their parents.

The benefits are endless in my personal and professional opinion. Not only does Paid Parent Caregiver Policy support quality care, mental health, and family values, but it also can significantly reduce costs to Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance. Paid Parent Caregiver Policy can be known as the foundation of the nation's long-term care system resolution by providing parents the opportunity to provide the many long-term care services and supports received by persons with disabilities of all ages. Parents providing these services will lessen the burden on the State's financial system, lessen family's burdens, improve quality of life for these families.

It is my hopes that policy makers will view favorably towards the Paid Parent Caregiver Policy as being an effective policy that should be continued because well-adjusted families create healthy strong communities.

Sincerely,


Julie Hargraves LCSW
Mental Health Therapist