

Submitter:

Shasta Kearns Moore

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4040

Chair Nosse and members of the committee,

My name is Shasta Kearns Moore and I'm here in support of the provision that allows parents to serve as Personal Support Workers.

At the last hearing on this topic, opponents said that this change will "impact the provider economy." I ask you to think long and hard about what that means.

Last November, I signed with four new agencies — in addition to the two I already have — to try to get more help. So far, only one has sent a single caregiver. She worked two out of four weekends and then quit. My child still has a fraction of his hours filled, despite needing 24-hour care. That's the system you're being asked to defend.

There was also the suggestion that "parents simply don't want oversight." Let's be real. The parents, who right now, currently, today, sacrifice daily for their very high needs children, ALL UNPAID, live under constant oversight. We interact daily with doctors, nurses, therapists, teachers, case managers and more who are all mandatory reporters. Our kids' lives are documented constantly.

Let's game out how this "accountability" would work. Let's say an agency decides a parent isn't doing something right. They fire the parent. Then what? They probably don't have a replacement, but let's say they do. The parent is the one expected to vet them, train them, manage their schedule, flag suspicious behavior and fill in when they don't show — all for free.

I can COMPLETELY understand how some adults would want space and autonomy from parent providers. Children — especially medically complex children — are not the same. They want their mom or dad. They need stable, continuous care.

HB 4040 doesn't remove oversight. It simply recognizes the care parents are already providing — and does so in a way that saves the state money and serves more kids.

Thank you.