

Madam Chair, members of the Committee, my name is Kaitlyn Klepzig. I am an adopted child from the Montana City area. I am also 12 years old and HIV positive. I have six brothers and two sisters. My parents have, altogether, nine children.

My little brother and I are supposed to go to Salt Lake City every 3 months because our HIV needs close monitoring, but because of insufficient transportation funds we are only able to go every 6 months. I have a lot to live for so I don't want my HIV to progress into AIDS.

I would also like to tell you about what it is like to live with my two younger brothers, Tim and Rahkei. Tim, as you know, is deaf. We are working to learn sign language so that we can communicate with him. It is challenging to learn sign language but that is not the hardest part of living with him, his screaming is. If we cannot understand what Tim wants or he gets mad he will scream at us. We need respite for Tim so we can relax and take a break.

Rahkei is even harder to live with. He constantly tries to get me in trouble and he makes my father mad. He fools everybody, he acts like this perfect child while at school, but when he comes home, he's a completely different person. It's kind of like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Sometimes we just need to take a break from him as well as Tim. We don't have the money for that.

Please appropriate enough money to pay for transportation and respite so our family can stay together.

Thank you.

Kaitlyn Klepzig
P.O. Box 1215
East Helena, MT 59635

Physical Address: 700 Smelter Rd.
Clancy, MT