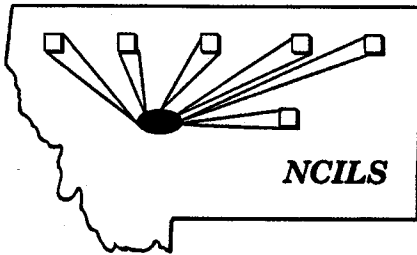


North Central Independent Living Services, Inc.



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January 24, 2011

Dear Chairman and members of the committee:

The proposed cuts to the personal assistance program would greatly affect the consumer receiving the service, their family, workers, and providers. The consumers health and well being is at state when you start cutting time for meal preparation and other essential personal care needs. When an individual's care is adversely affected by decreased services, the person may experience more health problems creating more ER, hospital, or higher cost care settings than if they had been provided the care that is being cut.

We ask you to continue to support Health Care for Health Care Workers. If hours are cut, the Personal Attendant may no longer be eligible for the Health Care Insurance as this is based on the number of hours worked. Currently this insurance option is only open for workers who work more than 20 hours a week.

Home and Community Based Services are viable to our nursing home level of care consumers. Without this service many of our consumers would be in a higher cost care setting.

Please do not cut provider rates as the cost of living and all the business expenses continue to rise such as our unemployment and workers comp rates. If provider rates are cut, a business may be faced with financial hardships that could result in a negative impact on Montana's economy.

We the Self-Directed Personal Assistance staff at North Central Independent Living Services strongly feel this program cannot afford to absorb any more cuts.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Roxann Settera
Dee Almanza
Colleen Forrester
NCILS/SDPAS Program

January 25, 2011

Chairman Roberts and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheila Patera, I live in Great Falls and for several years I worked as an attendant /care giver for my daughter Shyla. It was difficult for my daughter to find reliable assistance, so I filled in the gap. I appreciated the job and income, and would again work as her attendant except it was a challenge to complete tasks in the hours allotted. If the Legislature makes cuts to the Personal Assistance programs' it will it more difficult to find quality attendants/caregivers.

In my daughter's search for good care, many applicants wanted/needed health insurance as well as full time work.

I worry for my daughter and other Montanans' with disabilities who need these services to maintain quality independence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sheila Patera
712 43rd St N
Great Falls MT 59405
(406) 452-9126

Dear Mr. Chairman and other members of the Committee

My name is Judy Eriksson. I didn't know I had a brain injury until after having brain surgery Aug 21, 1996 in Seattle, WA. I am here to talk about the new Montana 1-800 Brain Injury Helpline. Budget update of \$100,000 per year in budget for two years for this new Helpline.

I was hit by a car when I was three years old which caused Epilepsy and brain damage. I also have suffered through PTSD, Depression, Anxiety Disorders. In the past I had two left leg torn ligaments surgeries from falling down from having seizures in my lifetime.

When I was a child, I was abandoned by my parents. I was raised in a dysfunctional family. I was sexually, physically, emotionally abused by my father and his friends, I didn't even attend his funeral last August.

After having brain surgery in 1996, I went seizure-free for ten years. In summer 2007 the seizures came back. They scared me to death. Friends took me to E.R. I was already seeing an Epilogist (Epilepsy doctor) in Great Falls. After she left, I saw another specialist for treatments.

My physician Dr. Brian Weitz thought it was better for me to see Dr. Mulgrew here in Helena, in case of anymore seizures.

Early last March 5-11, 2010, I went to Saint Peter's Emergency Room. I had a blood clot on my left leg. I'm on a blood thinner, Coumadin. I now have arthritis in both of my legs. I can't stand long and I need to grab something for support. To take the pressure off one of my legs. I can't walk long anymore either, because my legs get heavy and sore fast.

I thank my psychologist, doctors and especially Helena Brain Injury for all their support for being with me through this miserable suffering of pain and emotions.

I have called and haven't heard or haven't had any response from my MHP Montana Independent Living Project

(OVER)

case manager since last April 2010. She has not set up an appointment or meeting with me yet. This is why I am asking you to pass this bill 1-800 Brain Injury Helpline.

There is not enough case managers or support for the Brain injured who are in need of assistance. Remember Montana is a rural state.

Montana Independent Living is so busy and full with so many caseloads, they don't attend to all their clients. I been talking to Helena Brain Injury and my psychologist for support and help the last two years. We desperately need the Montana 1-800 Brain Injury Helpline.

Traumatic Brain Injury is very complicating. Mainly, when I just received a letter from Social Security. They told me I may be losing my Social Security and my benefits. I don't have my physician Dr. Weitz anymore. He wanted me to start seeing Dr. Sargeant. Dr. Sargeant is closer to my house, Right across the street. I wouldn't have to worry about transportation. Plus he would be right next to me if any emergencies. This was my own decision, and Dr. Weitz suggestion before I saw him for the last time.

I will not know until late May if Dr. Sargeant is accepting Medicaid, or Medicare. That's why I saw Dr. Kraindler so I could get my prescriptions filled monthly. He is also getting me on physical therapy for my arthritis, pinched nerves, joints ~~so~~ sore back, hip.

Somebody's gotta do it!! I can't buy or even afford insurance. And what about the Health Care Reform?

People don't understand Brain Injuries until they have one or take affect. Such as car wrecks, bike wrecks, strokes. Montana is one of the highest in the nation with people who are brain-injured. We have so many outdoor activities, text and drunk drivers, bikers not wearing

helmets. Strokes cause brain injuries. You have to start your life mentally and physically over.

Brain Injuries also cause long and short term memories. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is another traumatic Brain Injury. God Bless our Brain Injured Veterans of the Military.

PTSD takes affect when something of the past becomes traumatic in the person's mind, which is called Flashbacks.

Montana Brain Injury needs money to keep the 1-800 Brain Injury Helpline. We need the money to help patients released from hospitals to start their lives after a traumatic brain injury, brain surgery surgeries.

People don't know where to go, what to do, or where they're at even when they are in someone's care.

1-800 Brain Injury Helpline will give people support. Plus now they will have someone to contact for needed assistance.

Please Vote for this Bill!!

Thanks You Very Much For Your Time!

Judy L. Erickson
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