

**Representative Don Roberts, Chair and Committee Members
Joint Appropriations Sub- Committee on Health and Human Services**

I am a 47 year old woman with Multiple Sclerosis. When my MS started rearing it's ugly head several years ago, putting me in the hospital on practically a month to month basis, I found that most of my freedoms were gone. I could no longer drive, take walks, work in my garden or go shopping for groceries . I weighed close to 100 pounds and struggled everyday with eating and an appetite. I have been "disabled" since 2007 and struggled for the last 3 years getting myself to doctor appointments, paying for special items I need on a daily basis like, adult diapers, baby wipes, wheelchair, walker, bathroom helpers such as a toilet riser, grab bars, transfer benches and so much more.

Then, in October of 2010, I was blessed with the opportunity to sign up with the Medicaid Waiver Program and hire my own Caregiver. It was like a heavy weight had been lifted off of my shoulders. Having someone here all day long would be great help to me. And as soon as I received a fulltime Caregiver I was so excited about getting some of my freedom's back. I finally had someone to help with my medications, fix my meals, take me to appointments, and the BEST part is I can go for ice cream now! (lol) My caregiver also helps with my dog, walking her and letting her do her duties while I rest and relax! I was receiving Physical Therapy 3 days a week and Occupational Therapy 2 days a week. The best part of all of this is I didn't have to leave my home, they came here to me. Another perk of the program! I was up and walking with my walker in no time.

It is now January 2011, only 4 months since I started the program and I would like to report that I have not been to the hospital once since I have had a full time caregiver through the Medicaid Waiver Program. I have started to gain weight, healthy weight (40 pounds) which I am very happy about since my weight was close to 100 before my caregiver started. I feel more energized and much happier. I feel like>>>>I am going to live! What a great feeling!

PLEASE

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MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAM. I AM PROOF POSITIVE THAT THE PROGRAM WORKS. IF IT WORKS SO WELL FOR ME JUST THINK HOW MANY MORE PEOPLE IT IS HELPING AND MAYBE KEEPING THEM OUT OF THE HOSPITAL WHICH MEANS FEWER BILLS ARE ACCRUING , AND THAT IS GOOD NEWS FOR ALL OF US, ESPECIALLY OUR PROGRAMS!

PEACE BE WITH YOU

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