

Written testimony : May 9 , 2015

To whom it may concern:

We would like you to be aware that we have a very special needs child at home which requires nurses to help take care of him .We have already lost one independent nurse ,being Medicaid did not pay her for over a month.Independent nurses have families ,house payment, car payments, etc.our nurses have been loving ,kind ,patient ,and understanding ,above and beyond their call of duty.They should not have to wait for their paychecks.As we try to replace her hours we have called many independent providers and they are too afraid to take the jobs because they have all heard about the possibility their jobs being eliminated,and the pay cuts .

Our two independent providers have given us wonderful steady services.

We did have an agency before that was not able to keep us staffed.They frequently called me at 9:00 PM stating they were interviewing after 3 PM and they were not able to leave the interview and start their shift at my house at 10 PM ,people I have never met ,heard about ,know anything about ,and neither did the agency. (to come to my home to take care of our child that cannot walk or talk.)When the agency was able to send us people ,it was somebody new frequently ;one refused to wash her hands or use purell,(her husband had a MRSA infection)my son was cut all the way up and down his hip ,about a 10 inch incision . Another nurse came without any paperwork, another nurse came ,I woke up at 4 AM to somebody I didn't know to find her sleeping in the chair ,while my son had respiratory issues and recent surgeries.The agency did not get a chance to know these people ,they were hiring them the day they sent some of them.

As we are trying to care for someone with so many needs it is stressful enough without having to worry about whether we will have a different nurse every day ,that needs to be trained every day we need consistency that the independent providers ,provide,and they deserve to get paid like everyone else in the world .All they are asking is to be paid for that job they do,and actually get paid in the pay period(not a month later,because there is a "glitch "in the Medicaid system)

We have been so blessed with our independent providers we would ask that you allow us to have the choice of independent ,or agency and if you cut their pay so they cannot even take care of their own families ,we will not have any more independent nursing ,which to us means stability.when we have nurses that, regularly we feel secure in our home and know that we have a qualified person daily to help take care of our child special needs.The pay cuts you are considering for these independent nurses would force them to go to agency make less money ,and affect their home life, and ours, it doesn't seem fair.

It has been 2 months , since our one nurse left.I have called multiple people for help in trying to replace her.(including our social worker.I have tried independent providers ,(it appears they are very unsure about their job security)and agencies in our area state they are unable to staff us.Our preference is to continue with independent providers for the stability ,in our home ,and we are asking you ,to Please reconsider this action.

Thank you
Kimberly A.Reed

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