



June 4, 2018

Dear Senator Burke:

I am writing in regards to Senate Bill 218 entitled "Regards minimum training and surety bonds for Medicaid providers" sponsored by Senator Lehner. This legislation would require Medicaid Independent Providers to purchase a \$10,000 surety bond. My name is Lisa Marn and I am the Consumer Empowerment Specialist at Services for Independent Living, Inc. I empower persons with disabilities to hire their own providers whether it be through the Ohio Home Care Waiver, PASSPORT, IO Waiver, or the PCA Program. Using independent providers give consumers the most control over their own care.

In addition, I utilize independent providers through the Ohio Home Care Waiver for my care.

Though I understand that the state wants to curb fraud as well as have a way to recoup overpayments, another requirement put on independent providers is going to be yet another deterrent for individuals to become and/or remain independent providers. There is a severe shortage of independent providers in the state due partly to the constant addition of requirements such as the new EVV system, increase in CEU hours, etc. as well as the low wages providers earn. I, myself, have been looking for an independent provider for weekends for five months. I cannot count how many providers have told me that they are not doing it anymore because of the additional requirements. It is difficult to become and maintain independent provider status which, in turn reduces consumers' choices of providers as well as puts consumers' care, health, and safety in jeopardy.

Requiring independent providers to purchase \$10,000 surety bonds would cost a provider \$100 for someone with good credit. If a provider has poor credit, it may cost upwards of \$1000. Independent providers do not make a decent wage as it is and now the proposed legislation will cost providers more money making their take home income even lower. Why become an independent provider? What is the incentive?

In short, I am against the proposed legislation to require independent providers purchase surety bonds. It will reduce the number of independent providers and in turn, limit the choices of providers for consumers. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to call me at (216) 731-1529 or E-mail me at lmarn@sil-oh.org.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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