

May 13, 2021
Senate Finance Committee
Testimony on HB 110

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Diane Howard. I am a member of NOBLE. I was a kinship care provider for my four grandchildren, and I got no assistance. Every cost came out of my own income. My friends who were also kinship care providers were also paying out of their own pocket. Kinship providers today need more money to take care of their families. And now they are telling Kinship care parents to apply for foster care, when they're just there for their own families. Kinship Caregivers deserve the same support as foster caregivers. The current version of the budget cuts the Kinship Caregiver Program from \$15 million to \$10 million. Kinship caregivers need more money, not less.

Diane Howard