

Good Afternoon. My name is Carrissa Girbert of Springfield, Ohio. As a parent of an Adult Young Lady with Developmental Disabilities, I am very concerned about the Governor's Proposal to Phase Out Independent Care Providers & to move to an all AGENCY SERVICE MODEL by the year 2019. Beginning July 1, 2016 the Ohio Dept. of Medicaid will stop accepting new Independent Providers & will not renew certificates when they expire. So, if my daughter's Care Provider's Certificate is up for Renewal in 2016, it will not be renewed. AND I & my daughter will LOOSE an Amazing SUPPORT person that has been with us since my daughter was 14 years old (she is 26 years old now). This will be like losing a member of our family. This would be extremely hard on our daughter who is a TOTAL CARE young lady. (until she was 14 years old, we had to Interview & Train Caregivers ongoingly.) Aside from this—do you know how hard it is to find someone so Long-term, Committed, Loving, Well-Trained, Patient, Good Humored, Dependable, & Trustworthy? We went 14 years with a Parade of different individuals before Emily. AND Emily goes way beyond “minimum level care.” (Just to give you an idea of Emily's commitment, she started out as an Aid for my daughter, but when it appeared the State was going to require a Nurse Care for my daughter, Emily went back to school to finish her Nursing degree just so she would be sure to be Allanna's Nurse.) Because of Emily, Allanna gets to go on fun OUTINGS like to the Zoo, parks, Boonshoft Museum, swimming, COSI, concerts etc. She gets to have regular Massages, time on an Exercise Ball (both of which are very important since she spends time either horizontal with pillows or in her Wheelchair). She Loves Wagon Rides & also laying down outside on pillows on the Trampoline while being gently “bounced” by Emily. My daughter Loves Books --so Emily reads to her & gives her CHOICES of Books to read--& takes trips to the Library. My daughter also Loves Music—so Emily gives her CHOICES of different kinds of Music C.D.'s to listen to. Contrast this with some Agency Care...

It's NOT like Emily just plops my daughter down in front of the T.V. & calls that care while she talks/texts on a cell phone—which one of my providers did who was used to working for an AGENCY! There's all different levels of “fraud”. Pretending to give care, when perhaps really the Agency Provider could care less about the person that they're supposed to be attending to, & they're spending time on their phone & getting paid for that, instead of engaging with & attending to the person they're supposed to be caring for (OR they're out washing their car in the

driveway of the person they're supposed to be watching, all on company time-- that's fraud too... OR maybe the AGENCY Provider doesn't even show up! Then you get someone that you don't even know their name or anything about them--& you're expected to be ok about leaving your Loved One in their "care". This is not only STRESSFUL, to have different providers show up that you don't even know, but it's UNACCEPTABLE. Think for a moment: our children are Vulnerable. My daughter doesn't speak like you or I. She's in Diapers & on a Feeding Tube. Anyone could take advantage of her. Planning care for our children with D. Disabilities w/Extensive Needs is SIMILAR to PLANNING for young children's care let's say with a Good Babysitter. IF you've ever had young children & you were picking out a Babysitter, you probably took Great Care in Interviewing & Training that person & getting to know them BEFORE you ever left your young children in their care...AND IF a situation happened that the Babysitter you'd trained couldn't make it, BUT didn't tell you & instead sent a perfect STRANGER to replace herself with; Are you really going to go merrily on your way & leave your children with a STRANGER? This is equivalent to the situation parents of children with D. Disabilities are often faced with when dealing with AGENCIES who have HIGH TURNOVER & you never know WHO is going to show up at your door! Agencies have Profit/Loss as their bottom line & High Turnover. This puts those w/more Extensive Needs in Agency Care at Greater Risk. Parents of Children with D. Disabilities need to be able to have the CHOICE to INTERVIEW, CHOOSE, & TRAIN the Provider who will be coming into our home.

We REQUEST that the Independent Care Provider Option be preserved for families & individuals.

We REQUEST that the TDD Waiver be transitioned to the IO Waiver, & the IO Waiver include Nursing & delegated Nursing. We further REQUEST that the HOURS of SERVICE one is receiving under the TDD Waiver, REMAIN the same in this transition.

We further REQUEST that there's NO LIABILITY on Parents to be a fiscal intermediary OR label them as the "EMPLOYER OF RECORD", making already overloaded parents responsible for collecting S.S., the Provider's Taxes, or providing Workmen's Comp.

Keep CHOICE Alive! Thank you.