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TESTIMONY RAISED BILL NO.6486

**AN ACT CONCERNING HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT WORKFORCE COUNCIL**

Good afternoon, Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and other committee members,
My name is Sheila Mulvey and I reside in Plantsville. I am addressing you today as a family member of someone in service of the Department of Development Services in opposition of Raised Bill 6486 An Act Concerning Home Health Care Services and the Establishment of a Personal Care Attendant Workforce Council.

All comments made are directed in respect to the DDS programs of individual and family support waiver services and the comprehensive waiver program specifically to the self directed funding program, presently an effective cost-saving program of which I am most familiar. There are approximately 800 individuals and families participating in this program.

In regards to the aforementioned DDS programs affected by HR6486 I find this bill to be: redundant of sound and successful practices already in place (lines 58 – 76 and lines 85-91); written with little or no understanding of how these DDS programs are designed and implemented (lines 58-76 and lines 85-91); teetering on the edge of breaching privacy and confidentiality of the consumers and families involved (lines 99-113 and lines 114-129); conceptualized and written with no apparent involvement, consideration or understanding of the lives of the people who receive these services and run their individual programs as “employers” in contract with state and federal governments and unjustly excludes them from negotiating on anything that they already do for their employees (lines 135-line 210); and, excludes DDS from modifying or rejecting recommendations made by the council (lines 82-84.)

The DDS self directed program affords our family member (1) a **safer** living environment, (2) more direct care hours because the program does not have administration costs as in more costly residential programs like group homes or institutions, (3) a team of committed and reliable well-paid part time staff, (4) although we do all the hiring including interviewing and checking with other families who might have or are employing the applicant, the application with all documentation is sent to a broker who does all background criminal and motor vehicle checks including the abuse and neglect registry of DDS (5) the same broker who handles payroll and assures that we are in compliance with all tax and labor laws including worker's compensation, (6) the same broker monitors the budget and issues monthly reports to us of expenditures and hours worked, (7) a DDS case manager who oversees the project, (8) an outside potential staff referral organization called Rewardingwork.org , (9) standards that are established by DDS and the federal waiver program (10) an E-Training program that must be completed by the new employee (11) ongoing training and education as to the family member's needs.

If this program is affected negatively and direct care hours have to be cut because of higher costs then our options will be to return to a more expensive and traditional residential settings or to reduce some staff persons hours. Both of these options will have adverse effects on the family member and staff.

Last week I was here and submitted written testimony opposing certain cuts in some human service programs. What I heard and understand is that we have to cut somewhere to get the state out of fiscal crisis. Well, I am now here today bewildered by why we are spending valuable time and energy on starting to create something that we all know ultimately will cost more dollars to the taxpayers. If we are concerned about quality of services and creating equitable and healthy work opportunities, well then, if it is not already done, let us use the model of DDS across the board for those agencies that have services requiring "personal care assistants."

I respectfully and very strongly urge you to not move this bill forward. Thank you for your consideration.