

Raised Bill #5433

Good Afternoon.

My name is Brendan T. Sniffin. I reside at 5 Shepard Road in Danbury. I am the father a special needs 52-year-old daughter who has been enrolled in a program called Self Determination for the last twelve years. This program has been cost effective -- saving the State of Connecticut thousands of dollars annually. The program is designed to do just what as it says – allow my daughter to take an active role in how she lives her life. She is a registered voter and not missed a vote since her twenty-first birthday!!

House Bill 5433, *An Act Creating a Procedure for Personal Care Attendants to Collectively Bargain with the State*, is being heard on March 13th when the majority of the consumers and surrogates are unaware such a bill even exists. The union has been given names and addresses of all Personal Care Attendants (PCAs) to contact as they see fit.

Since there is a bill before us today, below please find a couple of revisions that I see appropriate.

Section 1 (E) and (F) should be eliminated and should be waived from this bill.

Section 2 (6) should be changed allowing for two more consumers/surrogates on the PCAs Quality Home Care Work Force Council, bringing the total of consumers/surrogates to six members.

Section 2 b (E) (1) states October 1, 2012 as a date by which lists are compiled with the names of PCAs who a paid by departments of the State. This list will then be passed along to Unions and other groups. I know that this is March these lists have already been given to the Unions while the majority of consumer/surrogate are still unaware of such activity.

Sec. 3 (3) would charge dues and fees from the budget of the consumer/surrogate. Our daughter's budget is set by the State. Any dues or fees taken from this would adversely affect the resources available to the consumers' care. I understand there is a waiting list for people needing services. Where is all this money going to come from?

Our workers are very happy and never has there been a problem or any dissatisfaction

HB 5433 is a bad bill. I encourage the committee to oppose this.

Thank You

Brendan T. Sniffin

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