

Mary Ann Welch
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To: The Connecticut State Legislature

Date: October 22, 2014

Re: Medicaid Waiver

My name is Mary Ann Welch; my mother in law is a 96 year old State of Connecticut retired Teacher, currently living in her own home with the help of a full time live in caregiver. She is no longer able to live on her own as she has broken both hips and suffers from dementia. She has been paying privately for a live in caregiver for the last 4 years at an out of pocket cost of nearly \$200, 000. This spend down has almost completely exhausted all of her financial resources.

We were advised that once qualified she would be eligible for the 24 hour live in care through the Medicaid PCA program administered by the Connecticut Home Care for the Elders Program. With the suspension of this program once all of her assets have been depleted we will be left with only one option; to place her in a nursing facility. This option is counterproductive to all that our family has done and sacrificed in the last 4 years.

It is our understanding that the Medicaid PCA live in program is suspended due to pending legislative changes effective January 1, 2015. Our family as well as thousands of other in the state will be greatly affected if this suspension is allowed to remain in place.

It saddens us to think that after both my mother and father in law contributed to the funds that run this program through paying their taxes may not not eligible to participate in the program when needed.