

Statement of Melissa Jacobs  
Senate Bill 284  
January 29, 2015

Good afternoon members of the committee:

My name is Melissa Jacobs. I reside with my family in New Haven and am someone who has benefited from chiropractic care. I am happy to be here to express to you how valuable it has been for my family.

Prior to & in the beginning of our marriage, my husband, Joe, worked as a member of a New England based Christian ministry that traveled all over the U.S., and even parts of Europe and Mexico playing music, sharing their hearts and building up the faith of today's youth of all walks of life; a ministry that has since planted a growing church in 3 cities of CT, all of which serve the needs of its community. It was a powerful and special time, but also incredibly sacrificial financially. It also took its toll physically. My husband was typically the driver on these excursions, sitting in a driver's seat for hours on end, only to then unload heavy music equipment, set it up, play a bass guitar propped on his shoulder for hours, tear the equipment down, then pack it back up. Not to mention that he and his team often slept in an RV, on couches, floors, summer camp beds, and many more interesting places. My husband suffered from chronic neck, shoulder and back pain as a result of his time traveling and doing manual labor, and playing his instrument. Upon starting a family he switched to a 9-5 accounting job for a more suitable income to support us, but realized he needed to care for his injuries. He has seen his primary care doctor multiple times, gone for MRIs, went through physical therapy, but the number one thing that has helped him see a significant improvement and relief has been chiropractic care. And it would not be possible for him to receive the care that helps him sit through work at his current accounting job comfortably, play with our 2 year old son, take care of our new fixer-upper home, and just be himself without Medicaid assisting us. We are lucky to be in the special \$250,000 Chiropractic services program that you have provided.

What about me? I have opted to sacrifice a second full time income to stay home and raise our son who is not yet at pre school age, and am now expecting our second child due in July. Any pregnant woman can tell you the toll growing a child takes on your body. And as a pregnant person, you can not always rely on over the counter pain medications or traditional medicines because you must make sure everything you are doing and taking is safe for baby as well. I cannot express to you fully how much I have relied on chiropractor care to get me through my pregnancies and how critical it has been to be the best mom I can be to my son. Neck, back and hip pain; sinus inflammation and infections, headaches, sleeping issues, even helping to induce labor when I was past due and trying to avoid being induced...chiropractor care has helped all of these things and

again, it would not be possible to the extent that it has been for me without being able to obtain services paid through the \$250,000 Chiropractic services program.

As a parent knowing your children are getting the best care is priceless. I am grateful for the amazing pediatrician we have, and in times when my son was 6 months old and suffering from croup, and 1 year-old with back to back ear infections, even she requested that in conjunction with her care, that he receive chiropractic care to aid in his healing. Again, something that was possible because he is covered under HUSKY.

I hope you see that we are a typical family doing our best to provide the best for our growing family, live healthy, happy, meaningful lives, as well as give back to our community and world at large. Yet, we rely on Medicaid; and Chiropractic care, with the help of the special Chiropractic services program in Medicaid, has played a large role in that for us.

I realize my husband and I are lucky in that we've been able to receive Chiropractic treatments through the \$250,000 capped program. But many people in my situation can't get the help, because the program closed soon after it started this cycle. I would ask you to let all Medicaid adults who would like to utilize Chiropractic to be able to do so. Senate Bill 284 will do that by restoring Chiropractic fully to the Medicaid program as a covered service.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will consider supporting this legislation.