



Sam Bode

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Hello Senator Kasser, Representative Lopes and members of the Banking Committee.

My name is Sam Bode and I am a person with physical disabilities who hires personal care assistants with help from the Medicaid waiver program administered through the Department of Social Services.

I was born with a genetic disease that didn't show up until I was eight years old. It is progressive so I slowly lost my ability to do a lot of things. My mom was responsible for taking care of all of the needs of myself and my sister until 2005 when I qualified to be on the PCA waiver program. It was life changing for me, as at that point in my life I was using a wheelchair full time and needed lifts to help me in and out of bed. This program has let me lead a normal life. I work, volunteer and take part in as many community activities as I can. The fiscal intermediary that takes care of all of my payroll is Allied Community Resources. We have worked together since 2005 and I am able to get the help I need to manage my PCA's payroll. Over the years I have been able to have great relationships with all the people who work for me and get any concerns with payroll taken care of very quickly.

If you pass act 5426 I am worried that you will take away more ability for me to handle any of my own problems that come along. I also don't completely understand who is going to be responsible. I am part of a family of three. I work and my mom works many jobs so that we can maintain our household. I am sure we are not the only family that deals with huge expenses due to medical needs. I am very concerned that this bill will become a big problem. I am worried that this would get in the way of the employee employer relationship of working together with payroll and move right into a lien against property.

Please consider voting no for Bill 5426

Thank you very much for taking my testimony.

Thank you,

Sam Bode