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Hon. Marvin Abney, Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Support for House Bill 7298 "Medicaid Home Care Rate Increases"**

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Finance Committee,

My son Timon was diagnosed with ALD, a rare disease, when he was 7 years old. He lost his functions in seven months. Currently, he is bedridden. He cannot speak, cannot sit, walk, or see. During the hospital, every day he told me he wants back home. But we could not because we could not find any CNA. During the 4<sup>th</sup> month in hospital, my son could speak, every day he told me he wanted to go home. During the 5<sup>th</sup> month in hospital, he lost his speech ability, he shook his arms to show Dr. he wanted to go home.

During the 6th month he squeezed Dr.'s hands to show he wanted to go back home. We could not go back home because we could not find any CNA due to extreme shortage of CNA. Dr. said she could not discharge Timon without home service. At 7<sup>th</sup> month in hospital, finally Timon lost his squeezing ability, we decided to go back home even without CNA.

*Compassion. Excellence. Reliability.*



Going home is Timon's only dream in his life. We were afraid that Timon would lose his cognitive abilities. Even if he goes back home in the future, he does not know he is at home. When we found Timon lost his squeezing function, we told Dr. even if we could not find CNA, we decided to go home. It is Timon's only dream. When we came back home, our life is too tough. Not any home service we can get due to extreme shortage of CNA. The whole family struggled to survive. 24 hours/week I need to take care of Timon. Terrance, his brother, 11 years old, prepares breakfast and dinner for himself. He can only make sandwiches with cucumber, tomatoes, and cheese. This kind of sandwich has been the only food for Terrance for almost 9 months. We suffer a lot, Timon suffers lot, Terrance suffers lot. All what we suffer is due to extreme shortage of CNA. The most important reason for extreme shortage of CNA is the low pay. If the government can increase hour pay rate, it will attract more people to take CNA jobs. We really do not have other families who suffer what we suffer. Please increase the pay to CNA.

Shufen Tian, an exhausted mom