

My name is, Cynthia, I am a caregiver for my mom. We've been participating in RIte @ Home Shared Living since 2013. I provide all of her care and support, and I help her with all kinds of things that allow her to live at home. I help her fill out forms for Medicaid. I take her to doctor's appointments. Because of her illnesses and impairments, I needed to also become her financial power of attorney to help make decisions on her behalf. She trusts me to make financial decisions on her behalf, and I will continue for as long as I am her caregiver.

I am writing this email in support of H 5773. If the State restricts caregivers who are also financial power of attorneys, I will have to pay an attorney to change this and I would be left with no support. Without the Shared Living and the care team that I rely on, my life, and my caregiving responsibilities would so much harder. I don't know how anyone in my family would be able to take on this role because they all work. It's so much easier for me to do it. My mother wanted me to take on this role. It's been so helpful for us in doing so. I am asking the Legislature to preserve access to Shared Living for my family and families like mine who rely on Shared Living to help me be the best caregiver I can be and to help me take care of myself.