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I am a parent of a young man with intellectual disability. Glenn is a wonderful young man but is unable to talk, hold a job or keep himself safe. He has to be toileted, cleaned up after having a bowel movement, aided with showering and obviously meal prep as well as medication administration. He is fortunate to currently live in a house that is serviced by the Farmington Valley ARC. However I have many friends whose children remain at home without the proper supports, a meaningful job and really no hope of eventually living outside of their parents home until their parents die. This is extremely stressful for parents and no life for their children.

Glenn is supported by an outstanding agency. However staff turnover is very high. The reason for this is the extremely low pay for extremely challenging work. All the staff I know hold down at least two jobs.

I urge you to support a budget that takes the savings for rent subsidies and return this to the agencies so that they can serve more people on the waiting list. I also urge you to restore funding to the BSP program. This was a life saver for our family as the respite allowed us to actually spend time with our other children and to give us a little break.

Thank you for your consideration.

Valerie Wiseman MD
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