

TESTIMONY

Submitted by Frank Sellman, Father of Amelia Sellman, Recipient of Home Health
Extended Care Nursing Services

Appropriation Committee - Human Services Budget
Public Hearing

March 3, 2021

Regarding the Governor's Budget for Human Services

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Kushner, Representative Abercrombie and distinguished members of the Appropriations Human Services SubCommittee. My name is Frank Sellman, I am father of Amelia Sellman, who receives extended care home health nursing services.

Frank Sellman, parent of home health recipient.

I am the father of Amelia Sellman. I am writing to you today on the behalf of Amelia and the many other medically complex children and adults living in CT. I am asking you to increase extended care Medicaid rates.

Amelia, is a home health complex nursing care patient. Amelia is 19-years-old and has cerebral palsy and chronic lung disease. She is non-ambulatory, non-verbal, needs oxygen with BiPAP; and receives respiratory, suctioning, and nebulizer treatments every two hours.

Before receiving nursing at home, she was a frequent flyer to the hospital spending weeks at a time in the hospital. Once she started receiving in-home nursing care with the increased medical interventions, her visits to the hospital have diminished and her overall health and well being has dramatically improved.

Amelia is a bright, beautiful, and engaged young woman who loves going to school, listening to Justin Bieber, and baking cakes with her younger sister. She communicates with an iPad. Thanks to nursing at home, she is thriving.

Getting Amelia in-home care was extremely challenging. There were very few home health agencies in CT that would provide complex nursing services at home, due to the low extended care Medicaid rates. It took us months to find a provider who would take her on as a patient. Finally, All Pointe Home Care admitted her eight years ago, and we have been grateful every day since.

Not only has Amelia had very few hospital episodes since then, her health is far better than what doctors predicted. The consistent at-home interventions have kept her as healthy as possible. Her prognosis has been greatly improved thanks to the wonderful care she receives.

I am asking the Appropriations Committee to please increase extended care Medicaid Rates. This will enable her home health agency to hire more nurses to fill any open shifts. Because extended care Medicaid rates are so low, nurses can choose to work in other settings, making it challenging to recruit nurses to care for Amelia.

Having reliable nursing care is critical. I need all the help I can get to make sure I can go to work, support my family, and care for my other daughter. This support makes it possible for my family to stay afloat.

I plea to you to move swiftly on behalf of complex care patients, families, and providers. We cannot do this alone. We need your support to keep Amelia and others like her safe at home.

Thank you for considering my request. Increasing extended care Medicaid rates for medically complex children and adults will positively impact my daughter, Amelia, along with hundreds of other complex care patients and families in Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Frank Sellman

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