

RE: HB 1012 – Section 11 Developmental Disability Program

Dear Chairman Holmberg and members of the committee,

As a long distance sister of a person receiving Developmental Disability Services, I am writing to express my opposition to eliminating Section 11 funding as outlined in HB 1012. This program serves individuals who would otherwise “fall through the cracks” without the support provided by this program.

Greetings: My name is Carol Sipsock (DPOA) writing this letter in behalf of my sister, Phyllis Teich, who has been a client of CLS Fargo since 1990. Phyllis is 72 years old and has intellectual disability / cognitive issues. Phyllis also has many chronic health conditions(heart and kidney) which are progressing . I am happy to share any medical information if necessary.

CLS services for my sister include(but not limited to) :

1. Total money management. Phyllis is unable to manage her finances, and there would be problems paying her rent/other expenses of having an apartment. This would cause eviction and more expenses to “the system”.
2. Assistance in managing health related issues by accompanying Phyllis into the physician offices to aid with communication and executing the care plan. For Phyllis this would mean she would not be taking the appropriate medication/physician visits/costs of additional of Emergency Room/Hospital admissions. There is no immediate family in the area to bridge the gaps.
3. CLS has made it possible for Phyllis to live independently in a safe environment; making sure food, medicine, and other basic necessities are available to Phyllis. Without these services, there could be injury to herself, going without food, medicine etc. because she doesn't understand the impact and magnitude this would have.
4. CLS assisted Phyllis with a “job coach” such that Phyllis could work part time. Without these services, Phyllis would not be able to obtain employment on her own/stay employed her and she would have lost out on additional spending money. COVID/loss of employment/health issues have added more challenges in getting employment. Currently loss of job due to business closing.
5. CLS has also intervened on Phyllis behalf on disputes to stop further escalation. Without CLS there would be legal fees and court costs on “the system”.

With the loss of these services, Phyllis would “fall through the cracks”.

Phyllis is a lifelong North Dakota resident. CLS has been a driving force for Phyllis to be able to be a contributing member of society. It would be a travesty to take these services away from her.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I do live in the Detroit, MI area and would be happy to provide any additional information needed.

I strongly urge you to continue to fund this program and to provide continuity to those receiving Section 11 supports. Thank you for your continued service to the people of North Dakota and for your consideration of continuing this service that supports people with disabilities to be as independent as possible in their communities.

Sincerely,

Carol Sipsock
520 Newburne Pointe
Bloomfield Hills ,Mi
carolsipsock@aol.com
248-563-5606