

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2276 in regard to families as paid service providers.

In 2005, I drove 3 hours to Mandan to tell my daughter in person that I would not be able to be of much help to her for a while because I had been diagnosed with breast cancer and would spend most of the next year with surgery, chemo and radiation and that she could not try to help me. She openly struggled with the understanding that she, as a nurse, would not be able to help her mother through this. She was stretched emotionally and physically already, having learned just months before that her one-year-old was going blind from tumors in his brain.

I write this because it illustrates how family often cannot help physically or financially during a time when young parents need help the most - how, to make ends meet financially, these young parents must work when their heart, mind, and soul knows they need, and want, to be the present caregiver for their fragile child.

Enabling a young parent to be home with their children at such times by allowing them to be paid with dollars already designated for others to come into their home to provide this care makes sense.

I ask for the passage of SB 2276. I think about the difference this would have made for my daughter and her family over the last 8 years. Thank you for your serious consideration.

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