

MILESTONE HEALTH PARTNERS

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Dear Madam Chair Lee, Vice Chairman Cleary, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

I am writing to you to discuss House Bill 1416 and to ask for your support in voting 'Yes' for this bill. HB 1416 gives patients the freedom to choose their health care provider by guaranteeing medical providers with the opportunity to negotiate inclusion in health insurance networks. There are already consolidated healthcare networks across the country, which gives patients fewer choices for medical providers. HB 1416 increases patient choice by allowing them to see medical experts they trust and in return helps control spiraling healthcare costs by increasing competition of in-network providers. HB 1416 allows patients to choose any healthcare provider including family physicians, surgeons, specialty physicians, dieticians, physical, occupational and speech therapists, optometrists, chiropractors, nurse practitioners and mental health providers.

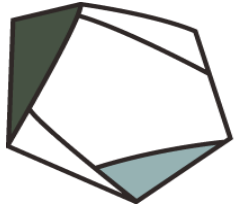
My family has been faced with critical healthcare scenarios when my twins were born early, requiring them to spend 5 weeks in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit as well as my husband suffering from a life threatening superior mesenteric vein thrombosis placing him in the Intensive Care Unit for 7 days. Both scenarios I was able to place some of our worries aside because I was able to choose the facility and the team of doctors I trusted in these sensitive and critical times. Also, living in a rural area, I was able to choose facilities in cities where I had family support to help decrease the financial burden of hotels. If HB 1416 does not pass, I personally would have been affected by it in both of these scenarios by being sent to different facilities with medical providers I did not choose and in a city I would have had no family support.

Please vote 'Yes' for HB 1416 and continue to allow patients to have the freedom to choose their healthcare provider.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindy Kirby', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lindy Kirby, Pt, DPT
Doctor of Physical Therapy



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