

House Appropriations, HR Section

House Bill 1012

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Chairman Nelson and members of the committee,

My name is Carissa Kraft, and I am the Scheduling Coordinator of Triumph, Inc., Jamestown, North Dakota. On top of this title I would also like you to know that I help directly with our individuals supported completing Direct Support Professional duties as well as a family member of an individual that we support. Thank you for the opportunity to submit and read my testimony in favor of HB 1012.

I am writing to you with the hopes that you will see how important our services are for those that we support. Starting on a more personal note; being a sibling to an individual with a disability I have experienced first-hand how detrimental this field is for those with any form of disability. I can say with my whole heart that if it weren't for my brother's support system he has through his staff (what I'd formally like to call his hero's) he would never be as far as he is currently which has also encouraged my sister, who has struggled in the same forms, to start the process to also receive services in order to increase her quality of life. Without House Bill 1012, this will detrimentally decrease the supports that my brother currently has in his life who give him the confidence and assistance to accomplish goals, complete everyday tasks, and live as close to an independent life as he possibly can. But this will also make a need for my sister deemed impossible. My brother and sister are the reason why I first started in this field as a Direct Support Professional. Triumph, Inc. provides active supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through their unique outlook on "services without walls" by supporting individuals in the community, at their workplace, as well as in their own homes to maintain independence and through my time at Triumph Incorporated, I have always taken an insane amount of pride in being that support system to additional individuals and assisting them in achieving what some may seem like a small silly goal, but to that individual it could be a monumental achievement in their life especially to individuals who have no other supports other than what we provide. Individuals with disabilities have already seen so much mistreatment and a sense of annexation from the public due to not having knowledge about the disability community so on top of maintaining their everyday lifestyles, many strive to just provide knowledge to communities in hopes of change.

1. Inflationary Increase of 4% and 3%

It is essential to ensure that reimbursement rates are adjusted to account for inflation. An increase of 4% and 3% will help providers manage rising costs while continuing to offer high-quality services to those in need. Without these adjustments, the ability to recruit and retain qualified staff, as well as maintain service levels, is at serious risk. This increase aligns with the federal inflation levels for the previous two years.

2. Increase Reimbursement Rates on ICF and Res Hab to 100%

3. Remove the Requirement for Accreditation

In conclusion, I urge you to support these items to strengthen the services and support on which so many individuals and families depend.

Carissa Kraft,
Scheduling Coordinator