



The Lifeline of HB1012

A Personal Testimony on the Impact of Department of Human Services Budget on Essential Health Services

When I think about HB1012 and the Department of Human Services Budget, it feels personal. It's not just numbers on a page. It's the lifeline that helped my family when we needed it most. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you needed support, but weren't sure where it would come from? That's exactly where we were a few years ago.

My daughter was born with a critical congenital heart defect. I remember those first days in the hospital in Minneapolis, feeling scared and overwhelmed. We spent countless nights there, watching over her as she underwent several procedures, including two open-heart surgeries. At one point, she even had a feeding tube and required medications around the clock. It felt like a whirlwind, and honestly, I often wondered how we'd manage.

This is where the services funded by HB1012 came into play. Early interventions, in-home supports, and respite services became our lifeline. These services weren't just helpful; they were essential. They provided us with the tools and support we needed to navigate a very challenging time. Have you ever leaned on someone or something for support and felt a wave of relief wash over you? That's how it was for us.

Medicaid providers, including physical therapists and occupational therapists became part of our extended family. They worked tirelessly to ensure my daughter had the best possible care. My late mom also played a crucial role. With her extensive medical background, she was the only one qualified to watch over my daughter, providing an additional layer of support and peace of mind. I am forever thankful for her. I often wonder, what would we have done without them? It's a question that still lingers in my mind.

As I reflect on our journey, I can't help but feel a deep sense of gratitude. But also, a sense of responsibility. How do we ensure that other families in similar situations receive the support they need? How do we make sure these services continue to be available for those who need them most?

HB1012 isn't just about funding; it's about caring for our community. It's about giving families like mine a fighting chance. I hope that by sharing our story, it highlights the importance of these services. Because in the end, isn't it about ensuring that every child and every family has the support they need to thrive?

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