

Congressmen and Women,

I'm writing in hopes of reconsideration of HB1012. My wife and I had our first child a year ago and found quickly she had paralyzed vocal cords so she currently breathes out of a trach. During our 2 month journey in the NICU we were lucky enough to assemble a team of nurses through Dakota Home Care and they were able to bring us home with care for our daughter. This care was very important to us for 2 reasons.

1. We finally got to be back home in Bismarck after 2 months in Fargo.
2. Not only are we finally home, but we have a team to care for our daughter and intervene with any medical since we're unable to send her to a daycare with her medical needs. This will allow us both to keep our jobs.

While in the NICU we found out how lucky we were to have an insurance that covered 24/7 in home nursing as most families aren't so lucky and have to fall back on Medicaid and that delays their arrival coming home as well as limits the amount of coverage families get at home. We were, however, quick to find out through the process that insurance isn't everything it seems and they would do anything to get out of covering our medical bills for our daughter. Because of this we have relied on Medicaid since May 2024. Because of Medicaid my wife and I both didn't have to try to make the decision of who is going to quit their job to stay home to care for our daughter.

Medicaid is very important for the following reasons:

- it helps families get home
- it helps them go back to everyday life when you can't rely on something standard like daycare
- in home nurses have proved to us they're more skilled and trained than our own hospital in Bismarck when we had an ER visit and one of our in home nurses had to meet us to get the track back because our ER team couldn't
- gives families the peace of mind knowing they won't be in medical debt as our daughter is already a \$1,000,000 baby
- most importantly they just help alleviate stressors to families that have many other stresses to worry about when you don't get to experience "a normal parenthood" because your child has extra medical needs

We have already experienced cuts from 20 hours a day 5 days a week to 12 hours a day 5 days a week resulting in losing one of our nurses if this doesn't get reversed. We cannot experience anymore cuts because we can't afford to just quit our jobs. Taking cuts like these put families like ours in a bind because again we can't just send our daughter with extra medical needs to a daycare.

All of this isn't for you all to have pity on me and my family as we're still very blessed and wouldn't trade this life or Riley for the world, but I would be remised if I didn't express to you all how important Medicaid has been to us through this journey. Cutting Medicaid hours will put families who need it in big hardship when these dollars and hours are being put to good use so I'd hope you all would take the time to reconsider the cutting of any funding and hours for Medicaid toward families who need it. Thank you for your time.

Colton, Casey, and Riley Rupp.