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North Dakota Legislature  
69<sup>th</sup> Assembly

RE: SB 2305

I write to you today in support of Senate Bill 2305 relating to the family paid caregiver service program.

While I do not have a child who requires extraordinary care, I know several families who do, some of whom were part of the family paid caregiver pilot program which has eased their financial, mental and emotional burdens when it comes to the care of their children.

We are all familiar with the workforce shortage issues facing our state. These shortages are even more profound for the families who need specialized, qualified, caring and reliable help. It's hard to find someone to fill orders at McDonald's, imagine how much harder it is to find someone who will not expose an immune-sensitive child to illness, to manage a GI tube or medication port, or to recognize that despite their challenges, that child is a whole person who deserves loving care, thoughtful interaction and professional assistance. These impossible-to-find caregivers are real-world angels and become a very real part of these families.

But they are few and far between.

Nobody loves a child, nobody knows the child better, than his or her own family. And if a family member is willing to quit their job – or forced to because of the lack of help – and care for the extraordinary needs presented, then their sacrifice should be honored, their work should be supported and they should be paid just as a non-related caregiver would be paid.

I know some of these moms and dads. I've heard their stories. They need help. Help we can give them by paying them for the service they provide to their children.

Please pass SB 2305.

Thank you,  
Kristy Rose