

From: "carevan" <carevan@comcast.net>
To: <PeteLund@house.mi.gov>, <DebShaughness@house.mi.gov>, <Paulopsommer@hou...>
Date: 10/12/2011 5:17 PM
Subject: Governor Snyder letter in September 2011.docx
Attachments: Governor Snyder letter in September 2011.docx; House Church pic - 2011.jpg

To whom it may concern: House Bill # 4936 & Senate Bill 649

Please read the attached letter to Governor Snyder as it is urgently pertinent to my life and the home care I have been receiving from my family for nearly 20 years. Changes to the No Fault Insurance Law will have utterly devastating effects on my life and that of my mother who has cared for me all these past years. I have also enclosed an attached photograph of myself so you can see to whom you are effecting with any changes you consider for this law.

Thank you and sincerely,

Caren Van Kleek



September 29, 2011

Regarding: Changes to Michigan's Automobile No Fault Law, House Bill #4936 and Senate Bill 649

Dear Governor Rick Snyder:

Thank you for taking a moment to read my letter. On April 6, 1992, while living in Michigan as a 16 year old, I was in an automobile accident which left me a C 5-6 quadriplegic. For almost 20 years I have lived with my disability with as much grace as one can in my circumstance. Living with a catastrophic injury day after day isn't an easy task. This is a difficult letter to write as I share what my life has become due to the independence that was stripped away from me in an instant.

I lead a life dependent on others. In all reality I am a 35 year old woman who is cared for like a child who cannot do for herself. Just writing about my life and the nuances that it entails is still difficult after so many years. There is no modesty and I'm absolutely at the mercy of my caregivers. My mind is 100% intact and what makes up the lack of limited mobility is my voice. All I have is my voice to direct my care. And I sincerely pray that my voice will be heard through this letter and that it may open your eyes to the world I face along with countless others. Please weigh your options carefully as I only have **one** option and that is to have caregivers in my life 24 hours a day, every day. I want the No Fault law to stand so I can continue to have the allowance of caregivers in my life that care for my much needed daily living needs but also somebody that sees me as a person and not just another patient. My mom, my primary caregiver for almost 20 years, and a couple other people have to bathe me, dress me, assist me with my bowel routine and help with intermittent catheterization every 4 hours if not needed before that time. My bladder is prone to urinary tract infections due to the intermittent catheterization and I also have to be careful to avoid dysreflexic, (medical condition), episodes. This doesn't include body checks to make sure I don't have any hot spots that could possibly be a potential bedsore. The care I receive, from my mom, has been of such quality that it has prevented unnecessary medical care. Knowing the living conditions of a hospital setting versus living in my own home has allowed me to experience a healthier and happier environment. I attribute all these blessings in large part to the No Fault Insurance homecare benefits.

The importance of this letter is to uphold the No Fault law as it was in place when I truly needed it back in 1992. If this law wasn't in place my benefits would have capped because I was air lifted to the University of Michigan hospital and my stay in the hospital was for 4 ½ months. What I don't understand are the expenses. House bill 4936 wants to change the pay to family and friends to an unfathomable rate and for a total of 8 hours a day. However, my caregiving expenses through an agency would be paid for. Due to invasive care, (i.e. intermittent catheterization), the proposed bill would pay \$17.00 an hour for unlicensed caregivers, but if I

went through an agency I would need an RN to come to my home to do the exact same thing my mom does from a price range of \$45-\$95.00 per hour. How can those two scenarios have an argument? This would be beyond devastating to my life as I know it. I have always felt blessed with these benefits. The insurance coverage that was paid to provide these benefits is what allows me to live a productive life with a disability.

Please don't allow H.B. 4936 and S.B. 649 to be signed into law. This will be a devastating act of legislature that will cause yet again, another catastrophic loss to me. I will have to sell my home and live in an environment I've seen too many times that has reminded me of a nursing home. I have always appreciated the surroundings I have and count myself blessed.

Best regards,

Caren Van Kleek

cc: Rep. Pete Lund
Senator Joe Hune
Senator Virgil Smith