

Nick Stumo-Langer

From: Megan Ramey <megan.ramey89@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 12:06 AM
To: Nick Stumo-Langer
Cc: Megan Ramey; Michael Ramey
Subject: Letter of support for HF 1434/SF1201

Nick,

Would you kindly include our letter below for the hearing scheduled for Wednesday, March 1st?

To Chair Peter Fischer and Members of House Human Services Policy Committee,

I am writing to you today to show my support for the upcoming legislation HF1434/SF1201. I am the parent of a young child with a disability, a participant in the TEFRA program and a constituent of district 8. Although we are unable to attend the hearing set for March 1st and give our testimony in person, I found it important to share our story in hopes that the passing of such legislature could help families like ours.

We are a family of four and have been utilizing TEFRA since 2021. TEFRA has been crucial to the medical and therapeutic supports our 3-year-old son requires. Unfortunately, great sacrifices have been made in the last few years to access these benefits.

In 2020 when our son was born, my husband and I knew someone was going to have to stay home to assist with his needs. The obvious, yet difficult choice was for the lowest income earner to exit their career and put it on hold. Over the past 3 years, my husband and I have had many conversations regarding what the future holds. I personally had a flourishing career that I would love to return to in the near future, but we have had much to consider in terms of what that means for our son. Being a single income household has been a challenge and it is disappointing to know that we as a family must choose between advancement in our personal lives OR assistance for our son. As our income increases, so do our TEFRA parental fees. Knowing the increase in fees can negate or even exceed the income from a new job or promotion, is disheartening. This means that for not only us, but many other families like us, career and financial advancement are often placed on hold. This is an unnecessary cycle that keeps many honest, hard-working families from moving forward.

If you would please consider listening in on tomorrow's session and offer your support to the families and advocates at the capitol, my family and many others like it would greatly appreciate it. So many know nothing of the struggle when it comes to getting and KEEPING the support we need for our kids. Thank you for your valued time.

Megan M. Ramey
Constituent of district 8