

Our names are Justin and Kristi Kurtz. We are the parents of a child with a physical disability. I am writing to let the involved committees know how incredibly important the elimination of TEFRA parental fees are to our family and hundreds of other families in a similar situation.

As a family, we feel we are being punished and penalized financially year after year, simply due to the fact that we were blessed with a child who has a genetic mutation which is entirely out of anyone's control. We are begging and pleading to please help eliminate this fee. It is a significant expense to families, thousands and thousands of dollars-- even up to \$15,000 PER year for many families. There are families that have filed BANKRUPTCY due to these parental fees, just so families have access to adequate healthcare equipment, resources and assistance. In addition to the cost of employer insurance. We are REAL people with REAL stories, these stories aren't made up and hold an incredible value. We struggle to pay these annual fees, it is a substantial financial burden. I personally have had to decline a great promotion opportunity at my job. I waited six years for the promotion but I knew if I accepted the promotion and had a significant increase in income, it only meant thousands more goes to parental fees. We need this insurance to provide our son the prescribed medications and equipment to keep him functioning and mobile. We feel punished for the unfortunate hand we have been dealt, Please, please help eliminate these torturous fees.

I am writing to ask the committees involved to include elimination of parental fees for TEFRA and HCBS in the negotiations with the senate during the conference committee. We need to put an end to this harmful policy of taxing REAL families with unfortunate disabilities that was implemented under the Pawlenty Administration.

NOW is the time for the House and Senate to show they care about children with disabilities and their families who work tirelessly every single day to afford these outrageous fees, that only seem to increase!!

TEFRA parental fee annually for some Minnesota families is $\$15,000 \times 18 \text{ years} = \$270,000!!!$

Thank you! Show us your dedication and support!

Sincerely,

Justin and Kristi Kurtz

Albany, Minnesota