

Dear HHS Conference Committee,

Thank you for including the language from HF 3199/SF 2772 in both the House and the Senate Omnibus bills. This is the bill that would lift the 40-hour cap for parents of minors and spouses on the CDCS and CFSS programs. The inclusion of this bill will help my family and so many others.

We have the honor of caring for our 7 children with special needs. All of whom were born to drug addicted mothers leading to numerous diagnosis and lifelong challenges. We have wheelchairs, therapies of all sorts, behaviors, medical pumps and supplies and home nurse visits and many medical appointments. Trauma tears are frequent. They have the alphabet soup of diagnoses of initials attached to them, yet not defined by them. They are our fighters, our survivors, our heroes. Being able to care for our children is a true honor. Being able to financially provide while doing so is a blessing to us all.

When the 40-hour weekly cap was temporary waived, we had a lightening of the financial stress our family faces in our efforts to provide disability care for our children in our own home. The ability to have both my husband and me providing disability services for our children has proven to meet their needs in a way that we could have not imagined, given the current workforce shortage.

When told we matter, we succeed!

Please continue to support this important bill by including it in the final conference committee report, and allow families like mine to decide who can provide care for their children, especially while we continue to navigate the pandemic and the workforce shortage crisis.

Thank you.

Jason and Jessica Neal