

Dear Conference Committee Members,

My name is Derek Sutermeister, and I am a parent of a child who accesses Medicaid through MA-Tefra (Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act).

MA-Tefra provides an essential pathway for people requiring high levels of support, but access requires parents like me to pay a large fee to access support. These fees were implemented in a time when charging fees to the families of disabled children was seen as an acceptable way to balance the state budget. I believe it is time to ensure that individuals with disabilities and their families have the freedom to live their lives without these financial burdens that are not experienced by people without disabilities.

My family has now been paying the MA-Tefra fee for the last 7 years to ensure our 11 year old daughter, Anneliese, has access to the supports she needs through Medicaid (that our primary health insurance does not cover). Anneliese requires constant care and supervision, and thus requires a personal care attendant funded by Medicaid (which we are grateful for). Our family has made many sacrifices to ensure our MA-Tefra parental fee is paid, on top of working full-time and ensuring the needs of our children are met. This fee is a burden, and impacts the well-being of our family.

Will you support our family by ensuring elimination the MA-Tefra parental fee?

Thank you!

Best regards,
Derek Sutermeister
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