

Dear Senators and Representatives,

My name is Elijah Zatuchny. My sister has a disability and she accesses Medicaid through MA-Tefra.

My sister has a progressive neurological disease, and her diagnosis has impacted our entire family emotionally and financially. Due to the MA-Tefra parental fee, my parents have had to make many sacrifices and hard financial decisions that have also affected me and my other siblings.

Due to these decisions, they had to stop contributing to my 529 college account, and had to stop enrollment in sports/activities for my siblings and me. This was hard for me to understand on top of seeing my parents put in so much effort with medical appointments and therapy appointments for my sister. When I was younger, I couldn't understand how my parents worked so hard, but we still couldn't do things my peers were able to do.

It's sad to see that families with disabled children must take on this additional burden that other families (with no disabled children) don't take on, and that this fee also negatively affects the well-being of other children in the home.

I hope you will support families like mine by eliminating the MA-Tefra parental fee.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Elijah Zatuchny