



## PROFILE

Hi, my name is Damon Leivestad, I'm a 51-year-old Mechanical Engineer and Disability Advocate from Plymouth, MN. I was born with Spinal Muscular Atrophy which is a degenerative neurological disorder that causes muscle deterioration and weakness as it progresses. I began using a wheelchair full-time when I was ten years old, and I have been using PCA home care services since 1992.

Due to the overall difficulty of finding home care workers I have begun to rely more and more on my parents to provide for my care. This solution, however, is not sustainable as my parents are now in their late 70's and have much less ability to help me than they once did. Many of my cares that are easily done by one home care worker requires both of my parents working together to accomplish. This has left me increasingly concerned about their and my safety as well as what the future has in store for me.

## CONTACT

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## SF 4399 | Support for PCA Language Clarification Using Senate Language in Article 1

Chair Hoffman, Chair Fischer, and Members of the conference committee.

Article 1 sections 12, 13, and 22 of the Senate Language includes simple yet critical clarifying language for our PCA workers. I urge you to adopt this language in the final conference report.

These sections revise the enhanced rate statute to correct a loophole in the current wording that allows the enhanced rate to apply to wages and "benefits" which PCA providers then use to divert wages into company-based revenue. Current language does not provide enough clarity or protection to ensure that workers get the full amount of their wages.

This clarifying language is supported by disability advocates and was developed with input from PCA provider organizations to make sure this bill closes the loophole, doesn't have any unintended consequences, and clarifies that wages include wage related costs and lists the specific items that count as wages.

Please support this clarifying language to ensure homecare workers are protected and receive the full amount of wages due for the work they do.

Thank you for your consideration,

Damon Leivestad

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Damon A. Leivestad".

