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RE: HF2847– FRS, moving from current pay framework to a flat tiered rate

My name is Troy Ostrowski and I have been an FRS provider for 20+ years. I have a 3 -person home in Sherburne County, and I specialize in those with mild to severe behaviors. I am sending this letter to you today asking to not go through with HF2847 moving FRS homes from current framework to a flat tiered rate as of 1/1/2026.

During the years that I have been an FRS provider it has been rewarding to know and see how living in a family setting and providing one on one attention does to help these individuals have a good quality life style. Having the atmosphere of a family setting, with structure, routine and minimal staff changes makes a significant difference for disabled individuals. Keep in mind we do need staffing to accommodate the needs for the people. It takes time to give them the quality of life they need and want. Some need many prompts throughout the day to accomplish small tasks, some need to be shown multiple times the steps needed to finish a task before they understand and can do it on their own, some have behaviors and we work with them on calming skills when they are in the moment. These are a few examples of areas we work on with our people. Even though we live in our home, the needs for everyone are different, and to meet those needs and provide a quality lifestyle comes the requirement of staffing outside those who live in the home.

There has been assumption that FRS homes only take the people that need very little care or just need a safe environment to live. This assumption is not true! Has anyone ever taken the time to talk to a few FRS providers to get facts on what transpires in their homes?

Please explain how it is even logical to decrease rates when FRS homes have the same amount of paperwork, EXPENSES, and other requirements as does CRS home. How are FRS providers any different? Please remember that we have given up our personal life, home, and family-time to help individuals with disabilities have a good, healthy, structured lifestyle. How would you feel if your pay was reduced by half with no explanation or opportunity to correct the issues/concerns? The person who is hurt in the end is the individual with the disability especially now with staffing shortages.

In the long run, many FRS providers will not be able to provide services that are needed in a structured environment and the people they service will need to move to a corporate setting. It would be safe to say that many FRS homes are not aware of this change since again people/settings involved are not involved or have input in these changes.

Thank you taking time to read my concerns.
Troy Ostrowski, Haven Country Care Home