

Personal testimony on SF 2215 – Waiver Reimagine Reform

Lisa Vala

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Chair Hoffman & members of the committee,

My name is Lisa Vala and my daughter, Amanda, is a DD waiver recipient who lives in her Own Home and will be severely & adversely affected by Waiver Reimagine. The budget inequities inherent in DHS's Waiver Reimagine will cut her current waiver budget in HALF. Waiver Reimagine bases budgets on where a person lives, providing generous budgets to those living in residential care and about half that budget amount to people living independently or in their Own Home.

Here are the numbers:

Today, Amanda's residential supports cost \$190/day. If she is forced to move into a residential setting, that cost will rise to \$335/day. This is a 50% increase to the state for her care – where she would be forced to live in a setting NOT of her choosing which violates her rights.

***>Supporting people to live in their Own Homes is supporting choice AND is more cost effective than providing care in residential settings. Waiver Reimagine budgets should NOT be based on where a person lives.***

I also want to make you aware of the major rulings and policies that Waiver Reimagine clearly violates. At the federal level, the Olmstead Promise – 1999 Supreme Court case that establishes a person's right to needed supports to live in the community. At the state level, Minnesota's Independent Living First policy which is in statute(256B.4905) & is based on the idea that people should be able to live independently in a non-provider-controlled setting.

***>Because Waiver Reimagine has an institutional bias, it violates both of these important policies.***

Please – we have to get this right for the 70,000 Minnesotans who rely on waived services. SF2215 requires DHS to base waiver budgets on NEED and NOT on where a person lives and it requires DHS to seek legislative approval before submitting their plan to CMS. In addition, we are seeking a legislative taskforce to study the problems. This taskforce will develop a roadmap for waivers that will serve us into the future.

Please support SF 2215 and help us move it forward.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

Lisa Vala

4615 Juneau Lane N

Plymouth MN 55446