Senator Matt Klein

Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Klein,

I write to you today to strongly urge you to support **SF4365** and homecare nursing in Minnesota.

In 1999, my son Markus was born. He needed a trach, feeding tube, and when he came home from the hospital at 5 months old, he needed homecare nursing. I will be the first to say that no one wants to need homecare nursing to care for a family member. We all hope our children are born healthy, that our children never experience traumatic life altering injuries, and that we can "normally" raise our children. For some parents, this is not their reality.

Today I ask your support of SF4365 for the families in the state of Minnesota, including those in my city of Bloomington.

In 2000, a bill was proposed to eliminate the category of "complex care nursing". That would have been a disaster for my son. I delivered a postcard to every Representative and Senator, begging them to not eliminate this medically necessary service to medically complex children. Over the past 26 years, I have witnessed other other political debates regarding homecare.

Had it not been for homecare nursing, my son would have required so many more trips to the emergency department and long hospitalizations. Fiscally, hospital care is much more expensive than homecare nursing. In addition, the number of hospital beds available at any one time is limited.

When a child is medically complex, the life of the entire family centers around that child. It is a situation that brings great sacrifice, unexplainable hardship, and yet, joy because children do best when they are home. Providing all the necessary care for a medically complex child is not something a parent can physically do 24/7.

Through the years we were told by private insurance companies who denied homecare nursing, "He has medical assistance, they will cover homecare nursing." We have submitted numerous appeals, appeared before board of directors, and once had the Attorney General became involved when a private insurance company sent the same denial letter to us and 3 other families we knew. Please hold private insurance companies accountable for medically necessary homecare nursing.

My son is now 26. He can live on his own with the help of others at night. He lives a full life, including a history of employment.

Please support homecare nursing and allow children to remain home.

Kind regards,

Deb Bachman