

September 27, 2024

To: Representative Will Carpenter and the Special Committee on Targeted Case Management

From: Mark and Renee Hilton (Ethan Hilton's parents)

Re: Targeted Case Management Conflict of Interest in Kansas

Our family was made aware of the proposed changes to the laws governing case managers and potential conflicts of interest. It is certainly admirable to want to protect clients from companies with these less than ideal motives when staff are assigned to assist those with developmental disabilities. However, the family of Ethan Hilton requests understanding from lawmakers and those enforcing these requirements. We are requesting that Ethan can continue to receive case management from his current targeted case manager.

The current TCM does a lot for Ethan and his family. Ethan's TCM takes over tasks and responsibilities that are challenging to his family. Many tasks, such as handling confusing paperwork, are made so much simpler because of this hardworking TCM. Ethan's TCM also makes availability to the client a priority. Recently, Helpers, the financial management service that coordinates care for the client at home, went to a new system which frustrated many caregivers. With the help of our skillful and dedicated TCM, the work of navigating the new rules and setup made life better for Ethan's family.

The family has developed a connection and sense of comfort with their current TCM and have confidence in their ability to advocate for Ethan's needs. The requirement to change to either a new case manager or a new facility could cause a good deal of stress. A good TCM builds rapport and trust; having to start over sets back the clock on the client's progress in getting improvements to his quality of life.

In spite of whatever the state feels is an issue, at this time we find no problems with the person helping Ethan. Please allow Ethan and his family to avoid the inconvenience and uncertainty of that adjustment by allowing us to retain our TCM.

Thank you,

 / FATHER

 / mother