

April 1, 2025

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

Regarding: HB 2956

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and members of the committee,

My name is John Grimm from SEIU 503 local 858. I support Bill 2956

I started my career as an adult foster care provider 20 years ago after my wife was diagnosed with a rare brain disease. We had a 5-year-old, 10-year-old and 12-year-old at home at that time. Opening an adult foster care home allowed me to care for others in need as well as be there for my children and wife. For over 15 years I was caring for 6 people, 5 Medicaid residents and my wife who past 2 years ago. so I know from experience that having 6 people with heavy care needs can be done and done well. My wife was expected to live 5 years and with good care made it 19 years.

We are headed for a financial pandemic with the Baby Boomers beginning to need care and rising costs for that care. We need to think about the best way to care for them and how to fund that care. I believe this bill is a good start.

Adult foster homes that take Medicaid is one of the most affordable way to care for our elderly and most vulnerable population. They are the most regulated and watched facilities/Homes available. Medicaid adult foster care homes are licensed once a year. We have case managers coming in for each resident at a minimum of once a year and ODHS can come in without any notice at any time along with the ombudsman. Law-enforcement are also allowed to come into our homes without any warrant to guarantee the safety of the residence.

Nursing homes and assisted-living facilities have one caregiver for 16 to 20 residence. Adult foster homes, with the ratio of one to seven in a home like environment and less expensive is a win-win for everyone.

Thank you

John Grimm