

Dear Ms. Gubbe,

I am hoping that you will accept my comments as part of the public input for the LTC workgroup. I could not attend any of the meetings this week. My son receives MPC and respite care hours through DDD. He is 19 yrs. old and lives at home with me (his father), his mother and his younger brother. Currently, my son receives paid care from two people and my wife. All three caregivers work for Kemper Services. We've been with Kemper for many years now and are very happy with the care my son has received. We have heard through the grape-vine about increased training requirements for caregivers. We also heard that the increased training would be required for parents that receive payment for caregiving (like my wife does). I am speaking for myself and my wife, when I say that the amount of training hours that we have heard would be required, are extremely excessive for parent caregivers. We have learned how best to care for our son through the "experience of caring" for him since he was born! We in fact, always instruct our son's caregivers in how to manage his behaviors, his physical care needs, his emotional care needs and his medical care needs. We do not need instruction in how to best care for our son! In fact, the thought of such a requirement is an insult! I ask the workgroup to be sensible in this area. Please taper the required training hours based on the experience level of the caregiver and the amount of training that they have already received. Please consider that parents do not need as many hours of training as other people. That point should be common-sense. I appreciate the time to listen to me and I hope my comments can be entered into the public record for use by the LTC workgroup.

Sincerely,
Bob Maier