

**Theresa Utton**

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**Subject:** FW: Personal care attendant turnover

Date: Tue, 12 Aug 2014 20:46:14 -0400  
Subject: Personal care attendant turnover

Dear Senator Kitchel,

I'm writing as a Vermont parent of a child with severe disabilities. I'm concerned about proposed budget cuts that will make it even harder for families to attract and retain quality personal care attendants (PCAs) for their children with disabilities.

Our 14-year-old son is a bright and well-loved member of our local community here in Burlington, and he requires one-on-one care 24-7 due to the severity of his cerebral palsy (a brain injury that occurs near birth that effects muscle control).

Finding people who are a good fit for his PCA positions is very challenging. Once hired, the position requires several months of on-the-job training to achieve independence for each PCA. During this time, our son grows emotionally attached to these folks, given the nature of the people we hire, our son's loving personality and the setting.

So, you can imagine how very difficult it is on everyone when a PCA must quit to look for better paying work. We have to start the difficult search again, then invest the months of training, and our son's heart has to heal once again and remain open to the next PCA. Everyone would be better served if the PCAs were paid enough to stay in their role longer.

Please take this into consideration when assessing related proposed budget cuts. Thank you for this consideration, and for your public service.

Sincerely,

Michael Wood-Lewis  
Constituent of Chittenden 6-5  
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