

Dear Ms. Kuhno,

We are [REDACTED] and our mentally disabled daughter [REDACTED]. We reside at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Warren, PA 16365 and our home phone number is: [REDACTED]

As my wife [REDACTED] and I get older, we are deeply concerned about ongoing services in the future for our daughter [REDACTED]. From your stated desire to "receive input from families and consumers regarding their experiences with the current system and their suggestions for changes", we offer the following:

1) There should be flexibility in using funds for housing purposes. We suggest the removal of the restrictive 30 hour rule that requires licensing of a residence if the individual receives 30 plus hours of service weekly and engages an agency to provide housing services. This would allow more flexibility in meeting housing, safety and security needs.

2) Your department should request that people be allowed to share services. For example if our daughter [REDACTED] wanted to live with another individual but they did not have funds for services, [REDACTED] services could be shared with that individual or vice versa.

3) We would also be interested in using services funding for a guardianship in the future.

4) Finally, we suggest that family members be allowed to serve as family providers because this is currently prohibited.

Respectfully

yours,

[REDACTED]