

Witten Statement by Glenna McVoy

Hello, Members of this General Assembly

My name is Glenna McVoy. I am a resident of Chesterfield, Virginia. I thank you in advance for taking the time to read, hear, and listen to my concerns regarding care provision to our disabled persons in Central Virginia.

Waivers are very necessary to aid and provide for our loved ones that cannot care for themselves. I didn't apply or train for the position of caring for my loved one. The role was bestowed upon me. It's a huge sacrifice to provide total care to someone their entire life. In addition to providing care, I now have to provide documentation from a professional explaining why I am the sole person for the job of caring for my loved one in order for it to be notated by a service coordinator and service facilitator. Yes, everyone gets paid to document my care that I provide to my loved one for little or no pay.

Up at 1am, 2am, then 4am, then within an hour or two there's a repetitive, insistent beeping or ringing, often with a harsh or urgent tone coming from the device on the nightstand called an alarm, going off. After 3 – 4 hours of sleep, it's time to get up, make breakfast, and feed the prepared breakfast to my loved one. All the while, there's a load of laundry in the washer, a load of laundry in the dryer, and two completed loads that need to be folded and put away. I have to get my loved one dressed and ready for the day.

They spill their juice; I have to clean up the spill. While cleaning the spill, I realize that I'm going to be late for an appointment if I don't leave in the next 10 minutes. I leave the spill and the dishes to clean up for later. I rush to get dressed and to get my loved one dressed. As soon as I get in the car, I receive a call that our appointment needs to be rescheduled.

Now I have to meet with the service coordinator, the service facilitator, and have a medical appointment scheduled for the same morning. Each appointment will last 30 minutes to an hour. All of these entities are getting paid to serve my loved one via paperwork and to check their DONE box.

I have missed sleep, prepared meals, fed and dressed my loved one, completed and abandoned housework, and sat through meetings and appointments providing information to all entities regarding the health and welfare of my loved one all before noonday. Nonetheless, I have to continue providing care throughout the remainder of the day into the night. There is no pay for the work that I've completed and no one is willing to help care for my loved one because that's a lot of work for such little to no pay. I will start all over again the next day with little to no pay.

Each day, alarms will sound, my loved one will require services morning, noon, and in the wee hours of the night, more meals will be prepared, more accidents will require clean-up, and there will definitely be more than enough appointments scheduled. All-in-all, day-to-day, these services will be provided to and for my loved one by me because of the love and dedication that I have for my loved one.

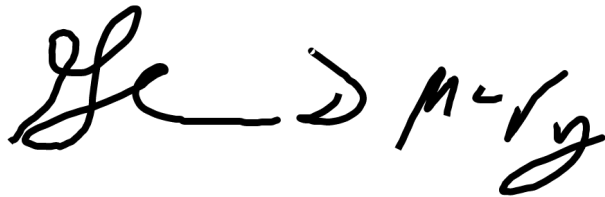
It's not an easy job, there's little to no pay involved, on-the-job training is vast and very unpredictable. You need a medical degree, a chauffeur's license, culinary certification, expansive knowledge of social and human resources, and you must possess empathy, passion, and patience.

And after all is said and done, I will need you to document every minute of every hour of every day and prepare written documentation each month demonstrating that you have done all that you say that you do to every state and county entity so that they may notate your efforts to ensure that they get paid for me caring for my loved one with little to no pay.

Please apply in person and bring all your documentation to be stored in database upon database throughout the state of Virginia, so that it may be documented that I am caring for my loved one with little to no pay.

During the process of caring for my loved one, I've lost family, friends, career opportunities, and hope in others, just to name a few. In return, I've gained struggle for services, disappointment in systems and services, and hurt and abuse from community resources.

It takes special people with big hearts to care for others. Although, those actually providing the care get the least money. Without waiver services and higher pay rates for providers, getting good service provisions is unattainable. After all, who works for the least amount of money?...Those that are unskilled, uninterested, and unreliable. Without more waivers and higher pay rates for providers, my loved one and the loved ones of so many others are receiving minimal care and services. We need less paperwork and documentation and more pay for those attending and providing care to our loved ones. More waivers and higher wages would ensure better care for my loved one and the loved ones of others.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. M. V. G." with a stylized flourish.