

Testimony Requesting a “Favor Vote” on HB32, Family Caretaker Tax Credit

Forwarded by AARP Suitland Maryland Chapter #939

This is the testimony of former caregiver Denise Whitmyer, on behalf of my deceased parents, James and Gladys Whitmyer, in advocacy of the Income Tax - Caregiver bills being considered by the House and Senate committees on Budget and Taxation (SB202 and HB32).

Foremost, it is imperative that one understands that any and all funds allocated in support of caregivers' financial obligations are overdue, and will be immensely appreciated. Within the past 10 years, I've experienced the extreme honor and extreme challenges belayed as caretaker of my parents. The initial obligation spurned out of crisis and continued under the pulses of emergencies until my father's transition. Ensued was a constant tug with the medical field to offer the bare minimum, while attempting to spearhead and direct me as caregiver.

As a result of my dad's steady decline, incurred within one month was nearly \$25,000 in debt, hoping to assure his safety and ours. Adding to the stresses of his care, I became a patient, requiring emergency surgery and nearly two weeks' hospitalization.

Following my father's passing and my full recovery, one year later my mother was diagnosed with cancer. Moving my mother in with me and after four independent rounds of treatment over three years, she lost her battle.

And, once again I required medical intervention, have been determined a history of stroke. With the care of my mother, expenses continued now for two households, along with engaging supplemental care for her. All of which was maintained under the limits of my retirement and my mother's social security. Neither allotments satisfying the obligations of the services and care she required and was respectfully due.

Consequently, going into debt was the answer and your funding to avert such debt is also the answer. Your consideration of this testimony is greatly appreciated.

If I can be of further service, please contact me at 301/213-2696.

*Respectfully,
Denise Whitmyer of Capitol Heights, Maryland*