

Dear Senators,

It has come to my attention that Bill 197 is proposing that in order for RSAs to be reimbursed by the Medicaid Waiver program, RSAs would no longer be allowed the flexibility to use independent contractors. This would have far-reaching consequences, not just for RSAs but for the communities that they serve as well. There are a large number of people who currently require the support of an RSA to provide them with high quality care and this bill jeopardizes the future of those very RSAs who work hard every single day, within these tight margins, to meet their communities' needs. Additionally, for an RSA to realistically meet this requirement, it would only be reasonable for the Medicaid reimbursement rates to be significantly higher than they are today (as past trends have shown, a rate high enough to cover this added expense may never happen). So I am urging you to please reconsider this bill, for the sake of the hardworking RSAs, for the health and wellbeing of our communities, and for the integrity of the whole Medicaid Waiver program.

Sincerely,

Sanjita