

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 660

Income Tax - Caregiver Tax Credit

As an advocate for seniors and people with disabilities, I was very pleased to see this Bill. Unpaid caregivers are a group that deserve untold praise. Just ask one and hear the changes that had to be made with no reimbursement.

The first job is to make space for the loved one. I have seen families build an extra space or rearrange the rooms of the house. Then comes an extra bathroom or changing the present bathroom to accommodate the disabled with bars. Accommodations must be made for every set of stairs inside and outside.

An ever-increasing amount of equipment must be purchased to allow the new resident to function.

The Bill goes on to enumerate. I don't have to repeat.

But it doesn't mention the strain on the body, the sleepless nights, or the pain of seeing your loved one - the one who was once your strength and provider - deteriorate.

I am also about saving taxpayers money. By our providing this care, we are keeping our loved ones out of the costly facility care which Medicaid may one day have to cover.

All of this is done with love, care, and respect.

At my age of 82, you can imagine how many people I cared for.

I ask that you give this Bill a favorable vote.

Beth Wiseman

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