

Ways and Means

HB364

Support

February 2, 2022

Good afternoon chairwoman Atterbeary and committee. My name is Brilliant Semenova. I am here today in support of HB 364 Sales and Use Tax - Medical Devices – Exemption.

I am writing to you in reference to concern medical devices exemption. As an individual with a physical disability, I have first-hand experience with the challenges individuals with disabilities face when trying to obtain medical devices for their mobility in order to improve the quality of life.

The conversation of purchasing medical devices equipment for an individual to assist them with their everyday living situation can be extremely overwhelming for families and individuals at any given stage it causes a significant financial burdensome strain on the family it is a significant out of cost expense that often times individuals and their family members have to prioritize between paying their essential everyday living expenses for example, food transportation utilities paying for medical copies medications etc.

The high cost of medical affordability often causes individuals to prolong the recovery process and develop additional health complications because the individual family was not able to afford the necessary device for their loved during their condition of recovery. As an individual with a physical disability, it would be impossible both physically and financially for me to purchase necessary medical equipment devices to assist me with my every day mobility needs such as walker, wheelchairs shower chair etc. not having access these devices along with other equipment will prevent mobility most importantly deteriorate the individual's condition.

I am sharing this concern with you today not only from an individual with a disabilities perspective but as someone who is an advocate for individuals with disabilities and their families in the community families are often left stranded encountering obstacles when trying to take care of their family members and advocating on their behalf.

Although professionals and individuals can sympathize regarding some of the barriers that an individual encounters when trying to purchase a medical equipment device. It really takes a lot of dedication for so many individuals. It is impossible to understand around the concept what it is like to live with their physical disability and needing medical devices to assist them with their daily tasks and activities. A professional would have them take some time off their busy schedule to observe the individual with a variety of equipment that the family would need to purchase for their love ones so they can be mobile and improve their quality of life.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Brilliant Semenova