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To Whom It May Concern:

I have been the guardian and primary care giver to my Granddaughter, Hillary, since the age of two. Hillary has been diagnosed with a variety of both medical and mental health issues since age 14. Today she is 22, and I am still providing the necessary support. Hillary was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes, uncontrolled variety, at the age of 14, along with kidney, heart, thyroid and other issues. Because of the combination of medical and mental health issues, prescription drugs are one of the most difficult challenges she faces each day in successful treatment and recovery.

The most commonly prescribed drugs in treatment of her mental illnesses have been detrimental to her medical health. Emergency treatment has been required on several occasions, twice putting her into a coma. Medical prescriptions are strictly aligned with insurance requirements. Today, the mental health doctors have been fortunate to work with Hillary's medical doctors in determining the proper medications are made available and supported with the various insurance organizations. Ensuring the mental health medications are appropriate for the individual, without restrictions applied, are key to my granddaughter's life.

It is always a challenge for individuals dealing with a mental illness to follow their doctor's treatment plans. In the case of my granddaughter, if she does not follow the mental health treatment plans it impacts her ability to care for her medical health. The cause and effect of this is extended hospital stays to get her stable and compliant with treatment again. My granddaughter is extremely fearful of any modifications to her prescription medications. This alone can derail her recovery and life.

Hillary relies on Medicaid alone to support her medical and mental health needs. Senate Bill 123 can not only hamper Hillary's ability to manage her overall health, it could actually put her in imminent danger. We strongly oppose this action.

Respectfully,

Dea VanDeBerghe