

Sample letter to be sent by MassNAELA attorney to his/her legislator

Dear Legislator:

Every day, we see frail elders and disabled adults who are disqualified due to income from participating in worthwhile MassHealth [Medicaid] community programs such as the PACE program [Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly], Personal Care Attendant Program and Frail Elder Home Based Community Waiver programs. Instead, these otherwise qualified individuals are forced into nursing homes. This unfortunate result is bad for the frail elder, the disabled adult and ironically results in higher costs of nursing home care paid by the Commonwealth. Your support of ***An Act To Preserve Eligibility for The PACE Program And Certain Waivered Services, Representative Benson, Senator Eldridge, H966; S580***, would allow frail elders and disabled individuals to receive care at home and save the Commonwealth money in the process.

The problem arises when the frail elder or disabled individual needing services has monthly income over the MassHealth program income limit of \$2,199. If the individual's monthly income exceeds \$2,199 by even one dollar, the individual is denied coverage until a large deductible is met. Because elders lack the funds to pay privately for sufficient care, they often cannot meet the deductible. As a result the frail elder and disabled adult is often forced to move to a nursing home, and apply for MassHealth long term care benefits which costs the Commonwealth far more than if the individual were allowed to remain home.

H966 and S580 would allow the frail elder or disabled adult to qualify for MassHealth programs designed to provide care at home, by providing for the excess monthly income of the individual above \$2,199 to be paid to MassHealth as a premium.

H966 and S580 makes sense for the frail elder, disabled adult, the community at large, and all Massachusetts taxpayers. Please support their passage.

Very truly yours,
