



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE BOSTON, MA 02133

RE: H995 An Act to permit a spouse to be a caregiver
DT: 1 July 2015

Dear Honorable Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Healthcare Financing,

Thank you for considering bill *H995, An Act to permit a spouse to be a caregiver* before your committee today

The bill would strike from MassHealth's Adult Foster Care Manual a regulation that explicitly forbids a family member from being a designated caregiver. The regulation defines a family member as: a spouse, parent of a minor member, including adoptive parent, or any legally responsible relative of the member¹. With MassHealth's Adult Foster Care program a caregiver is responsible for meeting the needs of the adult in the program. These needs include²:

- (1) Bathing (full-body bath or shower);
- (2) Dressing, including street clothes and undergarments, but not solely help with shoes, Socks, buttons, snaps, or zippers;
- (3) Toileting, if the member is incontinent (Bladder or bowel) or requires scheduled assistance or routine catheter or colostomy care;
- (4) Transferring, if the member must be assisted or lifted to another position;
- (5) Ambulating, if the member must be physically steadied, assisted, or guided one-to-one in Ambulation, or is unable to self-propel a wheelchair appropriately without the assistance of another person; and
- (6) Eating, if the member requires constant supervision and cueing during the entire meal, or physical assistance with a portion or all of the meal.

Being a designated Caregiver results in stipend from MassHealth; many family members serve as an unofficial Caregiver. This bill would enable the family member to be recognized as a Caregiver by MassHealth resulting in them receiving a stipend for their services.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I respectfully request that *H995, An Act to permit a spouse to be a caregiver* be released favorably and expeditiously from your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Heroux".

Paul Heroux

¹ <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/masshealth/regs-provider/regs-adultfostercare.pdf> pg. 2

² *Ibid* Pgs. 7-8