

## TESTIMONY

**Hello, Good afternoon, Senator Craven, Representative Farnsworth and members of the committee, and I am here to testify for LD488 on behalf of my brother, myself and my daughter and all others who receive care under the Home-based care programs.**

My name is Tony Atienza and this is my daughter Tianna, we are living at risk for Huntington's disease (HD.) This disease claimed my mother's life in 1998, my brother has been diagnosed with HD and it is cruelly torturing him. As the disease process rips through his emotions and his twitching hands reminds him every few seconds that he is not like everyone else. His inability to reason creates havoc for him and his family and soon he will need home care services. All we are asking for is to be able to give our loved ones the proper care that they need and deserve. Some families can give them proper care are ready to give them the proper care at a cheaper cost than what the state is paying right now in facilities and/or nursing homes. Some of them are being housed in facilities out of state at a much higher cost. It makes sense to approve this bill and allow families to access more hours from the state for their loved ones. I don't want to see my brother go through what I have heard of other families go through. I want to care for my brother as long as I am able to, and the passing of this bill will make that possible. This disease gives us more than enough to worry about and receiving the proper care would be one less wall to bang our heads on. Please let us live worry free! If I test positive for this disease I will also be facing living in a facility or a nursing home. I would much rather be cared for by a family member. Right now I have a voice and there may come a time when I do not. Please give careful consideration to this bill. My daughter may one day want to take care of me. My daughter may also one day need home care services.

Thank you.