

Carol Schulz



To whom it may concern, on November 7th, 2016 my wife, my daughter, and I were in a car accident. A distracted truck driver ran a stop sign at 60 miles per hour and hit the driver's side door of my car and pushed us 110 feet across the intersection, over the curb, and into a building that finally stopped our car. We were knocked unconscious and my wife suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI). My daughter regained consciousness first and was able to get out of the car with only an injury to her leg. She thought both my wife and I were dead because we were unconscious for so long. Neither she nor my wife remembers the accident (Sandra, my wife, still cannot remember anything that happened in the weeks leading up to it).

I was driving and sustained multiple broken bones, including 14 broken ribs, a broken vertebra, and my pelvis was broken in 6 places. I eventually had to have my left knee replaced because it was crushed in the accident. I remained in the hospital for almost a month and then had to be in a hospital bed at our home for another 4 months. Sandra has a TBI and can no longer practice medicine (she is a nurse-midwife and delivered babies in the hospital). She is now on permanent disability and is still confused, depressed, and frustrated - she loved her job. She has severe headaches regularly, still walks to the right, and her vision continues to deteriorate from the accident.

Please do not take in-home care away from others who still need, or will need the help of an in-home aide,

Without the help of an in-home aide after the accident, I don't know what we would have done. Sandra was in really bad shape after the accident and could not drive, focus her eyes, couldn't keep her balance when she walked, couldn't cook, take care of our children, and had to have months of physical and occupational treatments until she healed as much as she will ever heal. I was in the hospital and then in bed for months so I also couldn't help much although once I got home I could help the girls with schoolwork (Sandy is still confused to do this). I couldn't drive for 7 months after the accident so we relied on our in-home aide for rides to both Sandy's and my countless doctor's appointments. I also had months of physical and occupational therapy.

Carol Schulz



Sandra is a nurse-midwife with a doctorate in nursing practice. I taught chemistry, biology, and physics for 32 years. This accident changed our lives dramatically. Without the help of an in-home aide, I don't know what we would have done. If a split-second accident can bring two highly motivated and successful people with good jobs to our knees, I can't imagine what single people or those who are not as fortunate as we would do after a life-changing accident.

The idea that injured people do not require help is cruel. Living one's life day to day is easy - until it isn't because of injuries sustained in an accident. We are thankful that we live in a state that offered in-home care. Please do not take in-home care away from others who still need, or will need the help of an in-home aide.

It can happen to anyone.

Sincerely,
Carol Schulz

SOLUTIONS

- Continuing the percentage formula of Medicare as outlined in SB1/PA21 (as is).
 - Provide language similar to our MI Worker's Compensation & Disability Act for Home Health Care Providers shall be reimbursed either at the providers usual & customary charges or reasonable payment, whichever is less.
-
- This assures critically needed care & services would continue.
 - The addition of Medical Utilization Review, in the 2019 Statute, assures cost controls & sustainability.
 - Shouldn't drivers who purchase Unlimited Lifetime PIP coverage options, and therefore pay the MCCA fee, expect a robust Post-Acute network?

Joseph - Ottawa County



My name is Joe. My insurance company is State Farm. I am a C5 C6 quadriplegic. This means that I lose sensation and motor function from roughly my armpits down, along with no tricep function on either arm, no finger function on either hand and my wrists only have very minimal movement. The only two fingers that have any real sensation are my index finger and thumb on my right hand. I have been receiving 24-hour care every day for the past six years.

I was involved in an auto accident on November 20, 2015. I spent 2 1/2 weeks in the ICU, I had a feeding tube, I was on a ventilator with a tracheotomy, and had to undergo multiple other surgeries to install the two plates, a spacer in between those two vertebrae in my neck, along with multiple screws holding it all together. My spinal cord was severed. My carotid artery was so stretched they were worried it was torn. It was thought that I probably would not live past three days after the accident. When I began this Journey back then, I was so weak that I could only raise my right arm a few inches. Even a loose bed-sheet was too much for me to pull my right arm from beneath it. My left arm was so weak that I could not move it at all. Even a simple itch on my face was something I needed someone to help me with. I had to learn how to live all over again, starting with breathing. I had to learn to utilize different muscle groups because my core muscles no longer functioned.

From the ICU, I moved to a different part of the hospital to continue to wean off of the ventilator. I was there for seven days before I was able to be moved to Mary Free Bed where I spent the next three months doing inpatient therapy and from there, outpatient therapy for roughly 2 1/2 years. I had to learn how to do everything all over again. Building the strength to feed myself, brush my teeth, bathing, and using the bathroom. Operating power wheelchairs, pushing manual wheelchairs, various ways of transferring from one surface or chair to another, and partial dressing and undressing, all of which involved assistance from another person. I would get home from therapy most days and continue to practice all of the new steps and tasks that I needed to do to regain some level of independence and normalcy in my life.

If I didn't have caregivers around to assist me, I wouldn't be anywhere near where I am now. Every day continues to be a fight. Having roughly three total years of therapy and 24-hour care after I completed therapy has made that possible. I continue to need meals cooked for me, assistance with bowel and bladder management, personal hygiene/ bathing, transportation, dressing, laundry, housekeeping, medication, grocery shopping, etc. Everything that an able-bodied individual does in life, I need somebody to assist me with at some point, to some degree, in order for me to perform the same basic tasks.

I was not able to return to the job that I did pre-injury but I was able to obtain a job working part-time with the assistance of my 24-hour care. **If 24-hour care is taken away from me, I won't be able to continue working. I won't have a way to get to and from any appointments. I will have to give up my dogs which have helped me get through the countless dark days of depression. I will lose the Independence that I have fought so hard to regain on so many levels. I won't even be able to get in and out of my apartment as I require assistance to do even something as small as getting through a doorway. I'll be forced to live in a facility. Since these laws went into effect, my caregiving company is struggling to stay open. They have outstanding balances of thousands of dollars that haven't been paid. Caregivers that have worked with me for three years were forced to find other jobs. I am completely unable to take any family trips anywhere because the agency is so short-staffed and cannot pay over time due to the cuts.**

Properly trained caregivers are a necessity. These companies cannot get or keep good, knowledgeable employees at these rates. I am currently waiting to get a house modified so I can further my independence but losing my care would result in having to live at an assisted living location of some sort even though I own a home. **The last 5 years of fighting to live a somewhat normal life will all be for nothing. I am pleading with anyone who will listen, fix these laws that are ruining the lives of thousands, and in more cases by the day, even taking lives.**

We need to be grandfathered in!

Joe Reed

SOLUTIONS

- Continuing the percentage formula of Medicare as outlined in SB1/PA21 (as is).
 - Provide language similar to our MI Worker's Compensation & Disability Act for Home Health Care Providers shall be reimbursed either at the providers usual & customary charges or reasonable payment, whichever is less.
-
- This assures critically needed care & services would continue.
 - The addition of Medical Utilization Review, in the 2019 Statute, assures cost controls & sustainability.
 - Shouldn't drivers who purchase Unlimited Lifetime PIP coverage options, and therefore pay the MCCA fee, expect a robust Post-Acute network?