

To the Kansas Legislature,

Hello there! I am Lori Whetzell from Arma, Kansas. I have personal care attendants that assist me in my home because I am on the Home and Community Based Services Physical Disability waiver which allows me to stay in my own home. I get 40 hours a week plus Sleep Cycle Support of help from them. They help me with bathing, dressing, cooking, shopping, housekeeping, laundry, etc. I have stage four kidney failure and live with the side effects of flesh eating bacteria. I am 59 years old with a monthly income of \$1,510.00. I pay a monthly client obligation of \$333.00. I am writing to ask for your help to stop the client obligation requirement. Please raise the protected income level.

I live in income based housing which helps but I still struggle to keep my bills paid including rent. I never have enough to buy the groceries I need. Because of my health issues I have to be on a special diet that requires more organic foods that cost more than regular boxed or processed food that most people eat. Also as a result of my current health I have to be extra cautious about getting sick. With the pandemic the extra income would allow me to buy the necessary supplies to help keep me safe. The housing I live in is not in the best neighborhood. With an increase in the protected income level I would have enough money to help buy the food I need to help my health and find a better neighborhood that I could afford.

If I didn't have a client obligation to pay, that would give me the freedom to make sure that not only my bills are paid, food in my house that is healthy for me, but I could even take my grandbabies to the movies or treat them to a dinner out. I worked hard to be able to take care of myself and spend time with my family. Please help me do this by letting me keep the money I worked so hard for.

Thank you for any help you can provide!

Lori Whetzell
Arma, Kansas
