

My name is Gerrie Ann Chang, owner of PBG Best Care, and I am a respite service provider and member of The Arc Montgomery Respite Consortium, serving caregivers of seniors in our community.

Respite care plays a vital role in sustaining families. It allows caregivers time to rest, address their own health needs, and maintain employment, all while continuing to provide care at home. I am here to raise concerns about how the proposed annual cap of 120 respite hours and the current \$33 per hour reimbursement rate undermine this critical support.

Limiting respite to 120 hours per year would significantly restrict caregivers' access to meaningful relief. Caregiving does not occur in short or predictable bursts—it is ongoing and demanding. When respite is insufficient, caregivers experience higher stress, increased medical issues, and a greater likelihood of crisis placements that could have been prevented.

From the provider's perspective, costs have increased substantially. Minimum wage increases in Montgomery County, combined with higher expenses for staff training, recruitment, insurance, background checks, and compliance, have made it increasingly difficult to deliver high-quality respite services at the current rate. Workforce stability and care quality are at risk.

Despite these challenges, respite providers remain committed to serving families. However, sustainability requires action.

To maintain access and quality, we respectfully request an increase in the respite reimbursement rate to \$36 per hour and an adjustment of the annual cap to 144 hours, allowing families to receive consistent monthly support. These steps would help ensure respite services remain available, effective, and responsive to community needs.

Thank You,

Gerrie Ann Chang  
PBG Best Care