



State Representative

Samantha J. Kerkman

December 22, 2009

Co-Chair Senator Kathleen Vinehout
Co-Chair Representative Peter Barca
Joint Legislative Audit Committee
State Capitol

Dear Co-Chairs Vinehout and Barca:

I am writing today to request an audit of the Family Care Program. As you know, Family Care was created in the 1999 State Budget as a system to deliver long-term care to our state's elderly residents and also persons with physical disabilities. It started as a pilot program in 13 counties in the 1999-2001 biennium. As of October 1, 2009, Family Care has been expanded to 48 counties.

Local long-term providers in my area have expressed concerns about several aspects of the program. Those problems include:

- Contracting problems and the fact that contracting is not uniform throughout the state;
- Timeliness of reimbursements is a major concern. I've been told that it can take months to be reimbursed for expenditures;
- Social workers are to conduct face to face meetings with clients. This is yet another troublesome area because these meetings are occurring sporadically at best.

The state is investing almost \$955 million for FY 2009-10 and more than \$1.4 billion for FY 2010-11 on Family Care. In light of the problems that have been brought to light, I hope you will agree that an audit of the program is certainly warranted at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha J. Kerkman".

Samantha J. Kerkman
State Representative
66th Assembly District