

As a voice on behalf of Georgia's most vulnerable children and families, please mail a letter to the following people and respectfully insist that your tax dollars be spent more efficiently and effectively by reimbursing for CTCC programs and services under the GAPP Waiver.

Tell each of these State officials and administrators that you hold him/her accountable for making decisions that provide Georgia's medically complex children with access to these programs and services to get them out of the hospital faster, keep them in their homes with their families longer, and provide a more effective and efficient use tax-payer dollars!

Ms. Rhonda Meadows, MD

Commissioner
Georgia Department of Community Health
2 Peachtree Street, NW 5th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
Office: 404-656-4374

State Senator Don Balfour

9th District Office
2312 Waterscape Trail
Snellville GA 30078
Office: 770-729-5764
eMail: Don.Balfour@senate.ga.gov

Mr. James R. Lientz, Jr.

Chief Operating Officer
Office of the Governor
115 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334
Office: 404-656-6519
Fax: 404-463-5268
eMail: JLientz@gov.state.ga.us

Mr. Derick Corbett

Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of Congressman John Linder
1026 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-1007
Office: 770-232-3005
Fax: 770-232-2909
eMail: Derick.Corbett@mail.house.gov

Mr. Jerry Dubberly

Chief, Medical Assistance Plans
Division of Medical Assistance
2 Peachtree Street, NW 36th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
Office: 404-651-8681
eMail: JDubberly@dch.ga.gov

US Representative John Lewis

The Equitable Building
100 Peachtree Street, NW
Suite #1920
Atlanta, GA 30303
Office: 404-659-0116 office
Fax: 404-331-0947 fax
eMail: <http://www.house.gov/formjohnlewis/contact.html>

State Representative Clay Cox

102nd District Office
504-B Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
Office: 404-656-0188
eMail: Clay.Cox@house.ga.gov

Mr. Martin Wattenbarger

Constituent Services Representative
GA Office of US Congressman John Linder
P.O. Box 4026
Duluth, GA 30096
Office: 770-232-3005
Fax: 770-232-2909
eMail: Martin.Wattenbarger@mail.house.gov

Ms. Kenni Howard

Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street SW Suite 4T20
Atlanta, GA 30303
Office: 404-562-7413
eMail: Kenni.Howard@cms.hhs.gov

For additional details on the
Dream House *Family for Keeps*® Transition Care Program
visit www.DreamHouseForKids.org
or call 770-717-7410.

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Hello,

I am a concerned tax-paying citizen of Georgia. I am writing to make you aware of the following facts that are creating a situation which will greatly impact many of our most vulnerable children and families in Georgia.

1. In the 2008 legislative session, Georgia legislators passed House Bill 984 creating a new *Children's Transition Care Center* (CTCC) licensure because there is a documented need for transition care programs and services for Georgia's most vulnerable children with special health care needs.
2. During the Fall 2008, a Georgia Medicaid representative served as a member of an Advisory Committee (which also included representatives from the Georgia Office of Regulatory Affairs, the Division of Family and Children Services, the Georgia Advocacy Office, and several other experts) that created the rules and regulations to implement this new state licensure. The Medicaid representative demanded that any agency licensed as a CTCC maintain a staff ratio of one direct care giver to every two children, with one of these care givers being a Registered Nurse on duty 24-hours-per-day. The Medicaid representative acknowledged at that time that Medicaid would need to provide a reimbursement rate that would support this high staffing ratio.
3. It takes the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) 30 days or more to approve a child for the Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP or pediatric Medicaid Waiver) and home care. According to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, it costs Medicaid an average of \$1500/day/child or \$45,000 each, as they wait in the hospital for these 30 days.
4. For \$660/day/child or \$19,500 each, these children could be provided the same level of care in a more comfortable CTCC home environment! At the same time, other programs and services could be provided to more effectively and efficiently train parents and care givers in that home environment, their own homes could be modified and equipped, and community resources (Pediatricians, Apothecary Pharmacies, Churches, Civic Group, and Respite Care) could be identified and engaged.
5. The web site for the Georgia Department of Community Health, the parent agency for GAPP and Medicaid, (http://dch.georgia.gov/00/channel_title/0,2094,31446711_31450195,00.html) proclaims that their mission is to provide:
 - (a) Access to affordable, quality health care in our communities,
 - (b) Responsible health planning and use of health care resources,
 - (c) Healthy behaviors and improved health outcomes.However, the Chief of GAPP and Georgia's Medicaid Program, has informed state and federal Medicaid administration that he objects to including CTCC services under the GAPP Waiver because he does not believe that CTCC services are consistent with the intent of the GAPP waiver. Evidence to the contrary is documented on the other side of this page.

As a registered voter and tax-payer of the State of Georgia, I respectfully insist that my tax dollars be spent more efficiently and effectively by reimbursing for CTCC programs and services under the GAPP Waiver. I hold you accountable for making decisions that provide Georgia's children with access to these programs and services which will get them out of the hospital faster, keep them in their homes with their families longer, and more efficiently and effectively use the thousands of tax-payer dollars already being spent on caring for these children!

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

The CTCC goals and objectives ARE aligned with those of the Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP) under Medicaid as follows:

GAPP Policy Manual 601.1 Program Goals	CTCC Services
<p>To provide continuous skilled nursing care to medically fragile children...medical condition must require skilled nursing care equivalent to the care received in an <u>institutional setting</u>... The <u>caregivers must be knowledgeable and competent</u> in the care of the child....</p>	<p>Program Objectives</p> <p>To coordinate the health care resources necessary to facilitate the transition of a medically fragile child from <u>hospital to home</u>.</p> <p>Staffing includes at least one RN on duty 24-hours-per-day and additional caregivers at a ratio of one (1) direct care giver to every three (3) children. Services provided include skilled nursing care, PT/OT/ST and respiratory therapy.</p>
<p>To provide quality services, consistent with the needs of the individual child. All services requested must be accompanied by a physician's order.</p>	<p>Populations Served</p> <p>Medically Fragile Children...<u>Diagnosed by a physician as medically fragile</u>...Having special health care needs.</p>
<p>To provide cost effective services to eligible members in the home environment.</p>	<p>Program Objectives</p> <p>To prepare family members, care givers and the home environment for <u>safe and effective care of a medically fragile child in the home environment</u>.</p>
<p>To involve the physician and child's caregiver(s) or representative(s) in the provision of the child's care.</p>	<p>Program Objectives</p> <p>To <u>prepare community members</u> to provide the <u>support resources necessary for quality of life care for medically fragile children</u> within their homes and in the community.</p>
<p>To demonstrate compassion for the members by treating the children and caregivers with dignity and respect while providing quality services in the home or daycare setting.</p>	<p>Program Purpose Statement</p> <p>To increase opportunities for medically fragile children to live in a <u>stable, permanent home environment</u> through the development <u>of support resources and programs</u> which increase the number of families and communities prepared to care for them.</p>