

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am requesting that the Illinois Representatives support with **HB3193** and **SB1966** to address the inadequacies of the 'personal needs allowance' for Medicaid residents in long term care facilities "skilled nursing homes". Currently a Medicaid resident in Illinois is only allowed to keep **\$30.00** of their income for personal spending. This **\$30.00** has not been adjusted since **1988** when it was set at the federal level.

Illinois is one of only four states not to address the Medicaid personal needs allowance at the state level. With states such as **Minnesota, Florida, Arizona, and Alaska** topping **\$120.00 per month** for their residents.

Residents are **responsible** for paying for their **haircut, phone, clothing, snacks** such as "Pepsi", "Snickers", "Honey Roasted Peanuts", or any other item excluded from what is included in the regular room rate.

Currently the national average for the 'personal needs allowance' is **\$62.27**

As I close out my letter, I would like to leave you with a quote from Gandhi.

'The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members' Mahatma Gandhi

Sincerely,
