

This is one factor that has not been discussed on this issue. DMRS operates 3 waivers, the Arlington Waiver, the self-determination waiver, and the community based waiver. The "across-the-board" cuts are not truly across the board. Only 1 of the 3 waivers is affected. These cuts are only being applied to the community based waiver.

This is discrimination, as far as I can tell. Class discrimination because only 1 of the 3 classes is effected. Geographic discrimination because practically all of the Arlington waiver clients are in West TN. Therefore, the cuts adversely effect providers in the Middle TN and East TN regions disproportionately. My theory is that DMRS can't get away with it on the Arlington Waiver because of the court order. Whatever the reason, it is discrimination.

The only difference between the Arlington class and the Community Based Waiver class is where the clients were institutionalized. Often, clients from both of these waivers live together in the same home. If you were to go into one of these homes, you would not be able to tell which one was which.

Another factor mentioned by DMRS is the high cost of single person homes. They do not mention the fact that they are not paying the established rates in many of these situations. They pay a lower rate, against the very definition of the rates themselves, to many providers who have clients in single person homes.

One of you sent me an email requesting for me not to send you emails in an open listing like this. I apologize, but I have been unable to delete you from my list. The fear of retribution is still alive and strong. I understand that anyone that rocks the boat faces harsh tactics from DMRS.

Again, any of you in DMRS that are looking for places to seek retribution; you are wasting your time by looking at my email list. I have never even met many of the folks on my list. There are many great staff at DMRS. However, the few bad apples are the ones I am referring to here.

For you legislators, please ask why this doesn't apply to everyone. Why is the discrimination there?