

Wilma Braun, LCSW-C  
Leisure World Social Work Department  
Silver Spring, MD 20906

To Whom t My Concern

I am writing to urge your approval for a Special Appropriation of \$250,000 to the FY26 HHS Respite Program Operating Budget. As a social worker at Leisure World, I have witnessed spouses' desperation in their inability to adequately care for their disabled partners. In one case, respite care funding helped a care taker husband go to his life preserving needed cancer treatments while his wife was safely cared for at home. In other cases the spousal caretakers were able to get the groceries or just take a restorative mental health break. The need is so great that that this year the appropriated funding has already been exhausted leaving many families waiting months before being able to apply for this critical program. This delay will ultimately lead to higher costs with additional hospitalizations, and premature placements of the disabled partner and greater Caregiver burnout.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and your continued commitment to supporting older adults in Montgomery County, MD.

Sincerely,  
Wilma Braun, LCSW-C