



# Family Care Council Florida

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Committee on Health & Human Services Appropriations  
404 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Senators Peaden, Rich, Gaetz, Haridopolos, Negron & Sobel

Family Care Council Florida (FCCF) wants to thank you for addressing the prioritization of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) Medicaid Waiver Waitlist. We also appreciate your delaying the implementation of SB1660 to 2010, as it allowed time for important input from those that will be affected.

FCCF has discussed at length and heard from others, particularly in regards to Category 5: It states in 393.065:

(e) Category 5, which includes, but is not required to be limited to, clients who are expected to graduate within the next 12 months from secondary school and need support to obtain or maintain competitive employment, or to pursue an accredited program of post secondary education to which they have been accepted.

FCCF members question the value of Category 5 as being unfair to recent graduates and those who graduated. Many have been waiting for years. That category also appears to have no time limits as to length of time the individual stays in that category and thus becomes a look alike category 6, over time. We are recommending an amendment to 393.065 that would remove Category 5, altogether.

We know that you join us in our concern about the lengthy waitlist and those who have need for services. Addressing the APD Waitlist, while maintaining the integrity of the Medicaid Waiver program is a priority of the Family Care Councils in Florida.

FCCF wants to assist you in any way that we can. The Florida Legislature had the foresight to create Family Care Councils for that purpose, and we are here to fulfill our responsibility to all individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,

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*The mission of the Family Care Council Florida is to advocate, educate, and empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, partnering with the Agency, to bring quality services to individuals for dignity and choice.*