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SEIU Main Office

Atten: Mr. Greg Kelley, President

2229 S. Halsted

Chicago, Illinois 60608

RE: Christopher Stoller, Michael Stoller, and Leo Stoller v. Illinois Department of Human Services, Daniel Chung, Danica Jackson, Brian Jant, Antionette Kwateng, J.B. Pritzker, and Kwame Raoul

Case No: 2021-CH-000108

Dear Mr. Kelley:

It was a pleasure meeting you and listening to your presentation in Washington, D.C. yesterday. It was truly effective, and I am honored to have you as my Union President. You are truly an inspiration for all. You stand up for the dignity of clients, patients, and residents and fight to give them care and resources they deserve to live a full and independent life. You have built this union's foundation upon the concept of human dignity.

You serve your members with their best interests at hand and fight on a daily basis to ensure that you confront any and all challenges that may arise. Under your leadership, there is hope and a vision of a better tomorrow where everyone, especially the disabled, has the opportunity to live a life of dignity and security. My nephew, Michael Stoller was discriminated against by the mere people who were supposed to protect him.

You have rallied for healthcare worker's rights and for increases in their pay. Danica Jackson, a Rehabilitation Specialist for the IDHS, and Daniel Chung, Supervisor, who's rights you rallied and fought for, has disgraced everything you fought so hard for.

The security of health care should not be a privilege for a fortunate few, but a right for every American. The health and wellness of the American people, especially the disabled, reflects the health of our nation, both physically and financially. Disability rights are human rights, and the core of State's mission is to advance the human rights of all people.

Your fight against discrimination and racism is commendable. My nephew, Michael fights against ableism on a daily basis. Ableism is the discrimination of and social prejudice against people with disabilities based on the belief that typical abilities are superior. At its heart, ableism is rooted in the assumption that disabled people require 'fixing' and defines people by their disability. Like

racism and sexism, ableism classifies entire groups of people as 'less than,' and includes harmful stereotypes, misconceptions, and generalizations of people with disabilities.

I wanted to enlighten about the injustice that me and my family are having with the Illinois Department of Human Services and Daniel Chung, Supervisor of IDHS, and Danica Jackson, a IDHS Rehabilitation Worker. Also, the fact that the IDHS attorneys, Illinois Attorney General, J.B. Pritzker covered this up and did nothing to help. It is my hope that since you take a strong position on the disabled, you can help with the injustice that has been done and done by individuals who are in power.

In order for you to understand the injustices that the IDHS and its employees have done to my family, and the fact that the people in power have turned a closed eye to the injustices, I have to tell you the story about my nephew, Michael Stoller, so you can fully understand what I am talking about. This is the reason that I so desperately seek your help and assistance.

DRS, pursuant to 89 Ill Adm Code 679.10, Service Plan (SP) for HSP, a federally approved home and community-based services waiver, should be changed and the monthly SP hours and should be increased from 304.75 hours a month to 15-hour day, 4 & 1½ hours more per day (415 monthly hours) pursuant to Dr. Ralph C. Menezes, Board Certified in Psychiatry and Neurology, Letter of Recommendation (**Exhibit 1**).

MICHAEL'S STORY

My story begins when my nephew, Michael Stoller, was born. Since this was my brother, Leo Stoller's son and I could not have been more excited for his arrival. Michael's mother had a difficult labor and Michael was pulled out of the womb with forceps resulting in multiple stiches to his head. Michael did not cry when he was born. First noted developmental and behavioral issues started when Michael began to walk, and he had developmental delays with talking. He began to talk when he was 3 to 3½. Michael would interact in an unintentionally aggressive manner in order to gain intention. Michael was declared disabled from birth by Social Security.

Michael was diagnosed with ADHD and Oppositional Defiant Disorder and was prescribed Ritalin at 5 years old. Michael began experiencing a loss of skills beginning at 12-years-old. When Michael was in school, he would lapse into behavioral issues and would be non-communicative with his teachers and could not sit in his seat.

Michael's parents struggled to help him this resulted in his mother excessively punishing him and she was excessively controlling and restrictive. Michael has two younger sisters in which his mother kept away from him while growing up. He currently does not have a relationship with his mother or his sisters. He currently does not have a relationship with his mother, or his sisters and they have rejected him.

Michael's psychiatric history became prominent when he reached his late teens and experiences psychotic and depressive symptoms which has impaired his functioning. He also experiences visual hallucinations and was diagnosed with Catatonic Schizophrenia. Michael also suffers from

Autism Spectrum Disorder, hypertension, depression, low self-esteem, high blood pressure, diabetes, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, sleep apnea, and obesity.

Michael's ability to understand verbal information and express ideas through language is at a 4th grade level; his thinking ability is at a Kindergarten level and his ability to process information is at a 1st grade level. He is unable to describe how he feels and cannot process information he has received from his environment.

As a result of his disorders and catatonic schizophrenia, he cannot be around anyone new and experiences high anxiety in being too far from home or alone. The only relationship that Michael has is with his father and myself, who are his Illinois Human Recourse care givers.

Michael is currently 29-years-old and per his physician, Ralph C. Menezes, Board Certified in Psychiatry and Neurology, stated that, Michael operates as a 10-year-old child. Michael Stoller becomes catatonic around different individuals. The predominant clinical features seen in the catatonic subtype of schizophrenia involve disturbances in a person's movement. Affected people may exhibit a dramatic reduction in activity, to the point that voluntary movement stops, as in catatonic stupor. Catatonic schizophrenia is marked by striking motor behavior, such as remaining motionless in a rigid posture for hours or even days, and by stupor, autism, or agitation.

EXTORTION BY DANICA JACKSON, IDHS REHAB COUNSELOR

For Michael's health, safety, well-being, and welfare, Michael requires 15 hours of care, seven days a week, due to his inability to perform daily tasks and because of his disorders, cannot be left alone and must constantly be monitored.

Since Michael needs constant supervision, I became a home healthcare worker with the State of Illinois, for the sole purpose to devote my time to take care of my nephew. Michael has anxiety issues and will resort to a state of catatonic behavior if he is around anyone new, so the only option was to be his home healthcare worker.

Danica Jackson, Rehabilitation Counselor for the IDHS was appointed by Daniel Chang, Supervisor at IDHS, to evaluate Michael for his annual redetermination. When Danica Jackson came to my home for Michael's annual redetermination, she demanded that I provide her with gifts. Specifically, an expensive watch valued at \$400.00 and an expensive bottle of wine and in turn would report that Michael needed extra hours of care and would in fact approve 304.75 hours needed for Michael's care.

Since I am Michael's caretaker, I know the importance of the hours-of-service care that Michael needs to protect his health, safety, and welfare, so I gave into the demands of Danica Jackson. I also knew that if I did not give into her demands, my nephew would suffer.

As a "whistle-blower", I knew that Danica Jackson's behavior in demanding gifts for services was a violation of State Officials and Employees Ethics Act 5 ILCS 430/15, so I contacted Daniel Chung, Danica Jackson's Supervisor and informed him that Danica was involved in this

“shakedown extortion scam” and Daniel contacted Danica and got the watch back and sent it back to me. However, the watch was badly damaged and broken and is worth nothing in its current condition.

As a supervisor, Mr. Ching did absolutely nothing to Ms. Jackson, in fact he attempted to “cover-up” Ms. Jackson’s shake down scheme. Ms. Jackson is still employed with the IDHS as a Rehabilitation Counselor and still evaluates clients and was never disciplined for her professional misconduct.

Due to these facts, I filed an online Grievance Complaint with the Office of the Executive Inspector General (OEIG) and to my disbelief they did not even investigate my claims, they merely referred my Grievance Complaint the Department of Human Services, the exact same place that the complaint was against. Like the fox guarding the chicken coop.

Of course, I was assured by the OEIG and the SEUI, that no retaliation would be taken against me, imagine my surprise when the necessary hours-of-service care for Michael were reduced from 304.75 to 256.75. When I contacted Mr. Chung, he lied to me and told me that the Illinois Department of Recourses, does not allow for “extended hours of care” and “do not have an extended hour care plan in place”.

However, according to the IDHS HSP Overtime Policy and pursuant to Ill. Admin. Code Title 89 § 686.1530, it specifically states that there are five types of exceptions for a caretaker to work **MORE than 45 hours** in a work week if the customer meets one or more of the following, (1) Provider Capacity; (2) Unique/Complex Needs; (3) Out-of-Town Situations; (4) Provider Unable to Work; (5) Emergency Needs Exception. Michael currently meets two of the five. Pursuant to Ill. Admin. Code tit. 89§686.1530, an Emergency Needs Exception is when an urgent need for care arises and working more than 45 hours in a work week is unavoidable without risking the health and safety of the customer.

Michael has unique/complex needs as Dr. Menezes¹ explains in his October 25, 2021 letter (**Exhibit 1**). In a letter from Dariusz Barwacz, Manager of Community Support for Access Living, recommends that Michael should apply for the overtime exception per the Unique/Complex needs category, which is appropriate for his situation (**Exhibit 2**).

In retaliation for my filing a “whistle blower complaint”, the IDHS, under the direction of Daniel Chung and Danica Jackson have punished Michael. They reduced Michael’s hours to 256.75 and he cannot get the proper care that he needs in order to survive properly.

¹ Board certified in psychiatry and neurology

INJUSTICE BY THE OEIG, ATTORNEY GENERALS,
ATTORNEY FOR THE IDHS, AND GOVERNOR

The Office of the Executive Inspector General, pursuant to their mission statement, “The OEIG is an independent state agency dedicated to ensuring accountability in state government. The OEIG receives and fairly investigates complaints of fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, and violations of laws or policies, and recommends corrective action. In addition, the OEIG oversees ethics and sexual harassment training for employees and officials within its jurisdiction.”

Antionette Kwateng from the Office of the Executive Attorney General was responsible for reviewing and investigating my Grievance Complaint. She did not investigate the extortion and blackmail of Danica Jackson, nor, did she investigate the coverup of Danica’s actions by her supervisor Daniel Chung. All Ms. Kwateng did was pass the buck to the Department of Human Services.

The mission of the Inspector General is to prevent, detect, and eliminate fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, and mismanagement in programs administered by Healthcare and Family Services and the Department of Human Services.

Scott Gertz, Kwame Raoul, Brian Jant, and J.B. Pritzker are all held liable because they had personal knowledge of my Grievance Complaint against the IDHS, and they did not take remedial action to correct and fix the injustices that were done. Nor, did they do anything to investigate this case, they just turned a blind eye to what is going on.

I mean if you take your complaints to the offices of the individuals in authority, who are sworn to handle and prosecute injustices, especially injustices that are purposely done to the disabled, then what prevents this from happening over and over. Therefore, I was compelled to file, a Complaint in Springfield under Case No: 2021-CH-000108 (**Exhibit 3**).

The reason I write this letter to you is because you are the President of my union, and I am asking for your intervention in assistance to resolve this pending litigation. You have the power to reach out to those that are named my Complaint and help me resolve this injustice. People in power usually only deal with others who hold that same power. I implore you for your help.

Very truly yours,

Christopher Stoller