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Chairman Hilderbrand and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share information regarding IDD waiver rates and the recent increase. My name is Stephanie Rasmussen. I am the Vice President of Long-Term Services & Supports for Sunflower Health Plan.

Sunflower implemented the State rate increases for IDD waiver services that occurred this calendar year. The first increase was a 5% increase, effective April 1, for all IDD HCBS services. The second was an additional 2% effective July 1, 2021.

Although we do believe the rate increase has been helpful, we continue to hear from IDD providers that they are having significant issues related to direct caregiver position openings and lack of interested applicants.

Sunflower continues to have alternative payment contracts with four, large IDD providers which include agreed upon rates for supporting persons with IDD who have challenging behavior. In addition, we are currently working on a pilot with two IDD providers to engage in a value-based payment arrangement for successfully supporting persons with IDD to obtain competitive employment. We believe these are two ways that we can direct additional dollars to positive outcomes.

One of the services on the IDD waiver is Specialized Medical Care. This service allows for a participant to receive private-duty nursing in the home when there is a skilled need for care. This service is also offered to children on the Technology Assistance waiver. The rate for this service increased more this year for the TA waiver than for IDD, which resulted in the IDD rate being about \$6.00 less per hour. Due to this, several key providers have let us know that they are only accepting new referrals for persons on the TA waiver, and not the IDD waiver.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share this Information. I'm happy to answer any questions you have.