

# DHS Responses to Public Comments Regarding Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) Waiver Renewal

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## Partners for Inclusive Communities

**Comment:** It was good to see you today at the task force meeting. It was an interesting meeting. I did want to send you something in writing for your TEFRA waiver renewal public comment. We utilized TEFRA eligibility for Medicaid coverage for my son Carson for 18 years. He initially became eligible for TEFRA at 9 months old and remained covered under the program until just after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, when his adult SSI was approved. Carson has an SCN2A genetic mutation that causes intractable epilepsy and autism. We have been very grateful that Arkansas has made this service available for families like ours. We would not have been able to provide the support, therapies and seizure medications that are required to allow Carson to thrive with us in our home without his TEFRA coverage. Our premiums have always been a fraction of the cost of the services that were made available to him under his TEFRA coverage. I am very happy to hear that the required medical review process is being addressed in this renewal process. This would allow families the lighten their stress load that came with the TEFRA renewals. Even though I fully knew that Carson's diagnoses and needs would allow for continued TEFRA coverage, those MRT review years were always more stressful. This is a very welcomed relief for the other families who are currently utilizing Arkansas' TEFRA eligibility.

I appreciate all your work on the CES waiver waiting list, as well. We received a CES waiver slot and have just completed the intake process to initiate CES services for Carson. We were on the waiting list almost 10 ½ years and were very excited to hear that he had a slot available this spring. Thank you so much for helping make this available for all of the families who have been waiting with us.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment.