



# Faces of Disability

## Bev



My name is Bev and I live in Waite Park. I sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) when the van I was driving was hit by a semi-truck. I was in a coma for 8 days following the accident. When I woke up, I was transferred to a Rehab hospital, where I spent 3 months re-learning how to walk, talk, cook and many other independent living skills.

In 2009 I moved to Waite Park. I was struggling to rebuild my life. After accessing several other services, I was introduced to Independent Lifestyles by my Stearns County Social Worker. The staff here have helped me with living skills, like organizing my apartment, that I once took for granted. Most importantly though, the Rep Payee

Program has been vital for me to budget my finances and ensure that my bills are paid every month.

My biggest problem today is the cost of my MA-EPD premium. It has more than doubled and it's been VERY difficult to cover the cost. There are many struggles that people with disabilities face every day - including getting and keeping a job. It doesn't seem right that when we do, we are faced with our insurance going up to make it difficult to get by. I love my job and am grateful to be employed, but I have a limited amount of energy to maintain my mental and physical health because of my TBI. I may need to work another day of work to pay for this premium increase. That may be easy for some people but for me its a risk on many different levels.

I feel that Medical Assistance reform should be a major priority and ask you to repeal the MA-EPD premium increase.