

# 2009 - It's Time!

## *Why We Need National Health Care Reform Now*

David and Brenda Hooker's son Jonathan has a brain injury from a car accident when he was 17. He is able to sign with his right hand, but he has otherwise been dependent on the 24/7 nursing he had been receiving through TennCare.

Now, the Blountville family's nursing services have been reduced from 168 hours per week to 30 hours per week of licensed nursing and 10 hours of care from an assistant, who cannot give medication, insert feeding tubes, or give physical therapy. The new time constraints for care do not allow enough time for physical therapy, so Jonathon has had to forego this treatment.



David Hooker asks members of the TennCare Oversight Committee if there is not a better solution.

“It’s caused a real hardship on us,” says David of the recent cuts to home health care. David has already retired from his job to take care of his son, staying awake most nights to keep his son from aspirating. Though their family is exhausted, they do not want to put their son in a nursing home. “If we put him in a facility, he would regress tremendously. We want him to have the best quality of life he can possibly have.”



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