

Testimony from Elizabeth Sehrt - Eberman1989@gmail.com

Support full funding for Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) Programs

For the Ways and Means Education Committee on March 29, 2021



My name is Elizabeth Sehrt and I have been using early intervention services since my son Jackson Sehrt was 18 months old. He is my second child and he has been my biggest challenge as a parent. He is delayed in speech. He crawled at 5 months and walked at 9 months and he has been an active on the go, runner, climber, busiest little boy ever since.

I was introduced to early intervention services by my doctor during a check up he was observing my son's constant activity even in the small exam room. He asked me about his behavior and I admitted he doesn't listen to me and this busy personality is all day non stop. That's when he suggested early intervention a program that has specialists come along side you and help train and mentor you on how to be the best parent to your child and how to guide them to listen so they stay safe.

I was scared at first, having him evaluated and being told he was behind in speech and has some behavior problems. It made me as a parent feel like I was not doing a good enough job as his mom. The staff are so encouraging and told me that those were lies in my head. I just needed more tools with Jackson than an average child. Jackson has come so far because of EI/ECSE services, I am very blessed that we got help from this program.

This program and the staff have been so wonderful, I don't know where I would be if this program didn't exist. Please keep funding early intervention services.

Thank you for your time,

Elizabeth Sehrt

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