

My name is Teresa Carr, and I live in the Powell Valley Neighborhood in Gresham. I am here to urge you to prioritize funding for Developmental Disability Services, and more specifically in DSP Wages, DD Case Management and Regional Family Networks.

My son, Sawyer, who is 16 and experiences Down Syndrome has been able to have a more robust and complete inclusion in his community and school because of the support our family has received from our case managers and regional family network. The people we have met and have assisted us throughout the years have been passionate advocates for a population of chronically underserved people. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are at the forefront of conversations in this nation and rightly so, but those conversations have mostly left out people who experiences differences. These groups are the way we get our seat at the table and our voices heard. Our Case Managers and Family Networks are essential to our children having options.

We have such tremendous gratitude for the funding of these programs and ask that you continue to fund these vital programs to ensure vulnerable children (like mine) and others with disabilities have the supports they need, when they need them.

Sincerely and with appreciation,

Teresa Carr

On behalf the most awesome teenager in the world--Sawyer