

## Written Testimony

Public Hearing before Joint Ways and Means Committee

Submitted by Wendy Ricketts, Board of Directors, Serendipity Center

Hello my name is Wendy Ricketts. I am here representing Serendipity center as a current Board member and the parent of a former student. We are asking for an investment of \$2.8M to help fund a facility expansion.

As a parent, I support the expansion of Serendipity Center because my son, George would not be where he is today without the expertise & care he received at Serendipity.

In March of 2011 my son walked into Serendipity terrified it was the beginning of another failure at school. This was his 4th placement in 2 years due to emotional regulation issues resulting from his high functioning autism. But Serendipity welcomed him warmly and George didn't fail. *He began to thrive.*

For the next 2.5 years they worked with him patiently and taught him skills he would need to be successful at any school and in life. Last year George graduated at the top of his high school class and went onto Pacific University. Those achievements would not have been possible without Serendipity.

As a representative of the Board. I support the expansion so that the youth in the 21 districts we serve, that are on the edge of slipping through the cracks, have the opportunity to heal & learn at this incredible school.

Thank you for your time & consideration.