

Submitter: Carolyn Pasquarella
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB646

Hello,

I am a parent of two Autistic boys one 12 and one 14. We moved to Oregon 6.5 years ago and it have only been able to find one caregiver that was reliable that has stayed with us for 3 years. She has been amazing, but it is far from enough. We have many hours, but don't use even 1/4 of them due to the challenges of finding qualified and reliable people. I have hired people that seem great in person, or on the phone only to have them quit before they even start. If parents were able to be paid caregivers is would be such a huge help. The fact that my oldest has 160 hours a month and we maybe use 80 is not due to not due to not needing the help it's the fact that we don't have the help and now there is a huge financial burden. If I could be paid to be with my kids it would help us economically not struggle so much. The hours are there, but the people are not so why not let the parent be paid to take care of their child so that the family system is better able to function. We easily spend \$1400 a month on therapies until we hit our deductible and it's a real struggle. Making this change would help even out the inequality we face as there are also no after school programs for our kids so more parents are also unable to work and end up in poverty or dependent on their partner to survive.