

Submitter: Merry Shipman
On Behalf Of: Colleen Shipman
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB646

Receiving payment for caring for my minor child is invaluable to me because it lessens financial stress. Raising a child with a disability is expensive, and I expect to put a significant part of my paycheck back into providing for her basic needs and the special services that are so helpful to her. So receiving some pay for even a part of the immense amount of time I spend focusing on her needs specifically is wonderful, and it benefits her directly. But aside from the financial relief, I have access to more resources to help me in the complicated job of ensuring her independence and community integration. Being part of the payroll system also helps me understand the needs and challenges of my care provider team. I am able to better help them resolve issues and connect to helpful resources because I am more deeply connected to their provider agencies. Being able to fill in time for my care providers also lessens the amount of time and energy I spend hiring and training new care providers and scrambling to find care if someone calls out. I know my child's needs better than anyone else does, and I am a perfect candidate to provide the highest quality of care for her. This improves her general well-being and makes her a more productive member of society. Being one of her paid caregivers also keeps me sharply aware of the goals and needs outlined in her ISP. I am able to adjust her document as needed, and the training I receive as a paid member of her care team improves my performance. I strongly recommend that you pass this bill for the benefit of the parents, the special needs children, and all the people whose lives touch theirs in our society. This will make our community stronger, healthier, and better in every way.