

Submitter: Joshua Widmer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB646

My name is Joshua Widmer and the parent of Jason Widmer we live in Cornelius. My son Jason has extremely complex medical needs. Jason is non verbal 6 years old deafblind and wheelchair bound. Jason needs to have his diapers changed. Jason cannot dress or feed himself. Jason's not able to drink from a straw or a cup. Jason needs to be fed through a gtube. Jason has limited mobility only with the assistance of his gate trainer. His 65 lb body needs to be lifted into this gate trainer and wheelchair. Jason is high risk for seizures and aspiration. He simply can never be left alone or he could die from choking to death. It's a lot of hard work taking care of Jason but it is very rewarding and we love him very much. Any of the previous outside paid caregivers that we were provided we're extremely limited with any kind of medical knowledge and background. They truly didn't in many cases understand the level of work that is involved taking care of Jason. This is why we've had a constant high turnover when using an outside caregiver. Every caregiver we were provided did not want to focus their time on Jason. If we let the outside caregivers unattended, they wanted to surf their phone. Outside caregivers do not realize how much work and responsibility is required of them to successfully take care of Jason. The outside caregivers my wife and I have come across were not nurses or doctors I would not describe them as highly skilled professionals. This is why his parents are the best and most qualified people to take care of Jason instead of these outside caregivers. Only parents are the ones with the highest stake in the game. Outside caregivers would have a harder time knowing when something was out of the ordinary with Jason and a trip to the ER was needed. It's not uncommon for Jason's g-tube to literally come out of his stomach at times. An outside caregiver is not qualified in many cases even to understand how to put that Gtube back in the stomach. Also it's not uncommon for my son to have blood inside his g-tube. Sometimes this could be serious other times not so much. Caregivers would have an extremely difficult time knowing when to make that call to the emergency room would be needed in this specific circumstance. Please do what's best for Jason and support sb646. Our son Jason has benefited from the pilot program of allowing parents to be paid care givers. By excluding outside caregivers we had fewer trips to the emergency room. Jason has not needed hospitalization since the pilot program has started. Jason showed less stress by not needing to constantly adjust to new caregivers because of high turnover.