

Michael Millard
2624 34th Street Washougal Washington 98671
971-998-8838 millardmi@gmail.com

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Senate Committee on Human Services
Support for SB646

Chair Sara Gelser Blouin, Committee members:

I am the grandfather of a child with Cerebral Palsy currently receiving in-home caregiver services. I am aware of the difficulty that my son and daughter have had in scheduling and keeping qualified caregivers to meet a small portion of the care that has been authorized by the State of Oregon. I am aware of both the inadequate availability and continuity of care available to them in spite of their heroic efforts to arrange for this authorized care. I am also aware of the lack of support and resources available to them from anyone from the State of Oregon. The current system promises little and delivers less.

During the recent period, changes in the rules for eligibility for members of the extended family have resulted in significant improvement in the quality, availability, and continuity of care for my grandson by allowing members of the extended family to take some of these care shifts left open by the unavailable, understaffed, for profit agencies.

SB646 allows the current practice allowed by Medicare to continue to benefit the children and families of disabled children in Oregon. It is not a change or enhancement, and continues what has been an unqualified success over the last years. It provides that when agencies cannot provide needed services, family members can step in to fill in the gaps in care to create the continuous care that legislators intended when enacting these benefits for these vulnerable children.

Please support the reasonable and needed extension of the programs currently benefiting your constituents. Support SB 646,

Michael Millard