To Whom It May Concern:

I, Sheila Harris would like to oppose the restriction of not making parents permanent paid caregivers and testify that…. Parents of Oregon should have the right and be allowed to apply to a permanent caregiver of their disabled child/children if they cannot work a job outside their home, because of their child needs that are too great to commit to a full-time job. I have a child that has a complex of care needs with a combination of chronic conditions, mental health issue, and medication-controlled problems.

I've worked the supermajority of my life, and, before, during, and partially after my daughter was born. But due to my daughter's duo disability and increasing medical issues I couldn't continue to work because of constant calls from the special needs' daycare to pick up my child. Now it's the schools calling me constantly about my child behavior, or having mental break down behavior; in addition, to aggressive behavior.

I feel that I'm the best qualified person/caregiver because for one thing I have been around my daughter since birth, I've observed, been professionally trained, and I know what to do when an event of my child is having or had a seizure episode. I'm proficient in her daily occurrence of grooming, I have a watchful eye for her eloping, I'm hand-on and on time of administering her medication. I'm there when she is experiencing not being able to fall asleep at night for sometimes 3 days straight! My daughter is up all night from night until morning, or when she is experiencing her sleep apnea. My child had immunodeficiency, so she is sick very often. I'm there to best soothe her, with massages, and rocking her for comfort. She has continuous therapies, and doctors visit that I transport her to. She is documented by her physician for 24-hour care. I have in the past/presence for specially trained caregivers and right now there is shortage in my county, but when I hire caregivers, they never stay for long, and it's still always myself to constantly care for my daughter.

My daughter's needs for support are for seizure, protocols for her seizures, she has social anxiety, she non-verbal, she incontinent, she constipated constantly, she is taking many different medication to taken at different times of the day, she has behavioral issues , she has a monthly menstrual cycle and suffers with extreme cramps which causes her to be very moody, she almost sexually abused at a daycare, she can't preform her grooming/care, so I bathe her, brush her teeth, comb her hair, get her totally dressed, prepare her foods and cut them up, she has elopement-where she would wander off or run away especially if her anxiety is triggered, she doesn't trust people sometimes, and her disability diagnosis is a dual low functioning Down Syndrome/Autism.

I feel it is an important reason to make paid parent caregivers permanent and to allow parents and disabled children to spend as much time together as possible especially when you have a child with many ailments and issues like mines.

These are all the reasons why the Bill 646 should be removed and let parents be paid caregivers. There have been parents with children that has disabilities like in my situation that can’t keep a job due to these foreseen circumstances, and there will be struggling parents of kids with disabilities in the future. I will never be the ONLY ONE!

Sincerely,

Sheila Harris

Oregon Voter