

Hello, my name is Tanya Turner, I live in Salem, Oregon. I'm speaking today on behalf of our son, Andrew Turner, who is severely medically complex and diagnosed with Cerebral palsy, he will be 11 in July. Our son is home full time with me. My role as his mother and caregiver is to help him understand the world as a severely disabled child, with very high medical needs. Our family is doing and trying to do everything in our power to make our home and life to accommodate him.

When our son had his anoxic brain injury at 8 months old from not having good nursing care, is when our son became eligible for disability and qualified for DD services, and started getting hours for caregiving, I was very hopeful that we would find care and support for him and all his needs, which was not easy.

Then in 2020 our son was hit again with some bad medical issues which had him put in the hospital, then have to need more medical procedures, that lead him to be need to have a machine to help him breathe, which came from his brain injury from not having good care, then the world was also hit with Covid 19 and then it made it impossible to find nursing let alone caregivers that wanted to come inside the home to care for our son.

Then the government had the state of emergency come in place which was the best thing that could happen for our son, with his unique medical needs with breathing and being non verbal, g tube and vent dependent, around the clock care and significant seizures that has to be watched carefully, was impossible to find caregivers, till this was in place and then now he has a caregiver that is able to be here and do the hours that he is owed to be cared for.

That is an extremely qualified, dedicated, tender, and loving and willing caregiver available. One who shows up everyday, on time, willing to learn and grow in skills to improve the outcome of our son. A caregiver that doesn't cancel at the last minute before shift. A caregiver that knows exactly what to do when he starts having seizures that come in big clusters, that knows how and what rescue meds to give right away, and how to read his cues to know when they are going to start, or what needs, need to be met.

I'm asking the senate to approve bill 646 as it is not only helping my son with getting the care and hours fulfilled that he is owed, but helping all the disabled kids and adults and families, get the care they need and that they are owed.

Thank you for your time

Tanya Turner