

Submitter: Tera West

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB646

I am in full support of paid parent caregivers for their minor children with intellectual disabilities or health conditions requiring support.

As a grandmother and the full time guardian of my granddaughter, a minor child with disabilities and complex medical conditions I had to leave my job shortly after the birth of my granddaughter. This was due to the number of appointments from therapies at 6 per a week along with traveling for the various doctors appointments, surgeries and follow-up appointments.

Due to the compromised health conditions of my granddaughter she is unable to attend a public school. She is currently homeschooled with tutor assistance.

The cost of daycare for a child with special needs far surpasses the income I could bring in and would be a significant decline in care for my granddaughter.

I care for my granddaughter 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. She requires full attention at all times. One-on-one care for her health, safety, care and wellbeing.

Supporting my granddaughter on SSI alone is not possible. As a paid parent caregiver I am able to support and provided the necessities needed to help her thrive.

Without pay we are stuck in a below minimal situation, at best. A situation where I cannot afford what my granddaughter needs to survive let alone thrive.

So yes, I fully support paid parent caregivers for minor children with disabilities and medical and intellectual needs.

Thank you.