

Submitter: Sarah Knippel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB646

My name is Sarah Knippel. I have a 6 year old daughter who was diagnosed last year with autism, pathological demand disorder, OCD, sensory processing disorder and I'm trying to diagnose now ADHD and dyslexia. My daughter is very complex and the doctors are always finding new things. My daughter is also immune compromised. Which comes with its own strains.

I have struggled for years to get the help that I desperately needed and finally got the diagnosis to help get that support. I found out early on getting support and the right support was very different and difficult to find. No one knows my daughter better than I. No one knows how to support her in the way she needs better than I. My daughter is homeschooled not by choice but because the schools didn't know how to support my daughter in the way she needed and it cause my daughter to have a mental breakdown. I have had to be a stay at home mom because my daughter can't function without me. When I did manage to find some support the workers were under trained and had no clue how to support a disabled child which made my daughter have tons of new behavior problems. I had to chose between my daughters well being and breaks for myself and I took my daughters well being. These kids deserve to be heard and helped in the ways they need and not just thrown into societies normal to make others feel comfortable but to be able to be themselves. Parents are the best people to know how to help their children grow and thrive so why not let the parents help their children. Being a payed parent would take such a financial strain off my family. Plus, not having the worries of someone bringing sickness into my home. Let the parents decide on weather they want the help or to get paid. The money is their to help the families so let them decide.

I am just one mom who knows parents are the best caregivers. I have many other friends going through the same situation as I. All the moms I know stay at home and homeschool their child because their children weren't getting the proper care and support their child needs. This is not just a few parents struggling the way I do but tons of parents. We have hours for help but not getter the proper help and it's causing more stress then it's worth. It's not that parents don't want or need the hours it's the proper help that isn't being met. This is why a parent should have the opportunity to get paid.

Thank you