

Submitter: Theresa Jahangir  
On Behalf Of: My Wonderful Child  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure: SB646

My name is Theresa Jahangir.

I'm here today to ask you to support and pass Senate Bill 91, with amendments, or SB 646.

As I'm sure you are aware, during the pandemic, the federal government's emergency declaration allowed parents who received at least 240 hours per month for developmental disability services the ability to be paid caregivers to their children.

Now, with the federal government's emergency declaration for the pandemic expiring in May -- parents of disabled children under 18 years old will no longer have that ability.

Effectively, support for Oregon's most vulnerable children is about to go away during this legislative session.

It doesn't need to be this complex. Iowa's paid parent bill says: Iowa allows parents to use the resource allocated by the state and get paid to caregive their disabled children.

These hours that have been allocated to our children for support workers to help us are not changing. These are resources that have already been deemed appropriate by caseworkers using state assessments. Effectively, this is money that's already been allocated. But, now parents suddenly won't have access. What has changed? Will you help us?

I don't have the bandwidth to tell you all the reasons why you should support it, but I watched the testimony in my bed last night and I believe you heard all the reasons from those parents. We live this every day. We are our children's best advocates; their best caregivers. Don't allow Oregon to turn a blind eye to our children's needs.

Thank you,  
Theresa Jahangir