

From:
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To: Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee: Education
Subject: Written Testimony

My name is Julie Hall and I live in Salem, Oregon with my husband. I have been an Oregon resident for 36 years, my whole life. Our daughter is 6 years old and experiences several disabilities. I am writing to you, today, in support of full funding for OHSU and the CDRC's budget.

I am thankful to have this opportunity to share with you my experiences receiving services from the Child Development and Rehabilitation Center (CDRC) at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). While there are many stories that I could share I would like to focus just a few. Our daughter, Samantha, has several different medical conditions which affect her development.

Samantha is watched and evaluated by the CDRC Stroke Team, a team of specialists that work with children who have had strokes. This team suggested that Samantha, given her work ethic, would be a great candidate for Constraint Induced Movement Therapy (CIMT). When presented with this option we initially said no, we didn't want to drive from Salem to Portland multiple times a week for this intensive therapy. After a long discussion we agreed. It was the best thing we could have done for Samantha. Samantha made more gains in the three week intensive therapy sessions at OHSU CDRC than she did in the prior year at occupational therapy in Salem. We have repeated the CIMT program several times now and seen great success.

Samantha is watched and evaluated by the CDRC Feeding Team, a team of specialists that work with children who have feeding difficulties. Samantha's feeding has moved from totally g-tube dependent to eating orally! We are grateful for this team and their support. This team has supported us every step of the way to help Samantha gain independence in eating.

Samantha is supported by the Equipment Team, a team of specialists that work with children who need specialized medical equipment. This team has worked with us to access medical equipment, like a wheelchair, to support Samantha in her everyday life. The knowledge and experience on this team is so valuable.

Samantha is supported by the Psychology Department of the CDRC. Samantha has major medical anxiety, with all the medical trauma she has experienced, it is not a surprise. The psychology department supports our whole family with bi-weekly therapy sessions. These sessions are designed to give the whole family skills and tools to use to best support Samantha. Samantha has grown in her ability to address her emotional distress and use coping strategies. As part of her support system I have seen great progress with the Psychology Department of the CDRC.

The therapists and specialists at CDRC are top notch. They do an amazing job of getting young children to complete the desired tasks, while making it a fun game. Samantha will regularly work for an hour with one therapist and be sad when it was finished because she wanted to keep playing. While Samantha has more growth and learning to do, I have hope. Hope because of the growth she has shown. Hope because of the therapists and specialists at the CDRC. Hope for a brighter future for my little girl.

Thank you for continuing to support the programs of the CDRC at OHSU. Your decisions have a direct impact on parents and children living all over Oregon. You have the great opportunity to be on the same team as these wonderful children making wonderful progress. Please support them. Please continue to fund the programs at the CDRC so children just like Samantha can have bright futures.

Kind regards,

Julie Hall