

Submitter: Kara Hayden

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB1565

To Whom It May Concern,

I am in strong support of SB1565. As a speech language pathologist working with a segment of our population who have the most complex communication needs due to complex medical conditions, I can personally attest that patients that I serve have improved and made greater, more significant gains in their therapy goals when their parents were eligible paid caregivers under the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. I am therefore, in strong support of making this eligibility more permanent. When parents were paid caregivers they were able to provide their child with their undivided attention instead of juggling both a job to stay financially afloat and the significant medical needs of their child. They were able to stay home, focused on their child, and actually followed through at a higher level of engagement and consistency on therapy plans of care because they had the time and energy to do so. This ultimately led to significant gains in communication skills that had not been happening previously. Parents spent more time engaged in their child's therapy plan of care instead of investing time and energy into trying to hire and organize paid caregivers who are in short supply and can have high turnover rates which does not typically lend to positive therapy results.

I urge you to approve SB 1565. Our most vulnerable children deserve better.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this matter,

Kara Hayden MS SLP