

Submitter: Angela Fleming
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1565

I am submitting this testimony on the behalf of my grandsons. My name is Angela Fleming, and I am hoping that today you will hear my grandmother heart. I have two beautiful, smart, and amazing grandsons. Both of my grandsons, experience many diagnosis's such as, autism, down syndrome, AVD and VSD heart defect that needed open heart surgery, collapsing airway, FPIES, and various auto immune diseases, juvenile diabetes, and various serious milk, protein, allergy, and colitis disease. One of my grandsons has been battling a gamet of stomach issues that we're still trying to get confirmed and straightened out with treatment. It is very critical that both of my grandsons environments are kept accordingly to the programs and protocols that are put in place to keep them healthy and safe. As you see, they each have very special support needs to help them continue to be healthy and safe. It is a very hard decision for a parent to make to be able to leave their child in the care of another person with all these medical diagnosis, some that can be life altering, if not followed by the book. I have watched my son and daughter-in-law struggle with finding dependable care and not for a lack of trying. The boys have high medical needs and they live in rural Southern where services are difficult to utilize. My children are and have always been the ones to be relied on for providing the care unseen and not recognizable by the state. My son and daughter in law absolutely love those boys beyond measure. My grand babies depend on care that won't bring horrible sickness, discord, or emotional stress on my grandsons or to experience yet another caregiver that didn't stay or lied about what type of person they were in the interview. I am asking today if you would, please hear my heart and all the other grandparents heart that wrote in, we sit on the sidelines and we see the struggles that our kids go through for dependable care and we are asking you to please please listen to our plea of SB1565 that will bring equity for the children that are eligible for the paid parent program deemed by SB 91 last session. Please let the children have funding to actually utilize the HCBS that our state says they are entitled to and require to keep them safe and healthy. Parents are the most qualified and loving caregivers. Please lift the barriers that are preventing the highest medical and behavioral children from accessing HCBS from the parent intended by SB 91. I urge and ask the Committee and all Legislators to please pass this bill. These children deserve the support, they are some of the greatest humans amongst us. Thank you for your time.