

Submitter: Leah Liveta
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1565

My name is Leah and I'm writing as a parent of my awesome almost 13 year old child, named Aa, who has Austin Spectrum Disorder and has Intense Behavior. I live in Milwaukie, Oregon.

My son Aa, is one of Oregon's small number of children who qualifies for CIIS Developmental Disability Services. He gets KPLAN and gets secondary medicaid coverage through Medicaid (OHP). He gets 400 plus hours of caregiving every month allotted to him.

I used to work as a Behavior Therapist in an ABA Center, and my husband is a warehouse worker. Prior to Aa's disabilities, we envisioned the usual middle class scenario; we work fulltime and he goes to public school.

He attends a special ed structured learning class, I always get a call to pick him up because of his behavior, aggression, elopement, inappropriate touching of others, to name a few.

It is extremely hard to find a caregiver during these times, let alone a caregiver that will allow my child to be safe socially and emotionally. Aa needs constant co-regulation due to his autistic brain, and that is a skill that is extremely challenging to teach. This is a more than full time job, and it doesn't stop at night.

I urge you to include all children that qualify for parent caregiving. If I am able to care for Aa, I truly believe that he will reach his full potential. Yes, he needs lots of extra support now, but with the right support, like the support of his best advocates, and coregulators, and medical caregivers, he will THRIVE I believe this is not only the right thing to do, but it is also the most fiscally sensible thing to do. We do not want our children institutionalized or lost to systems that we know are broken.

Thank you for your consideration and for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

Leah Liveta