

Submitter: Brenda Martinez

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

I am a mother of a beautiful 12 year old boy named Isaac who lost his vision due to a brain tumor at 6 years old. Since then he has utilized services for the blind available to him to adapt and thrive! He is at the top of his class and leading a very inspiring life! He is capable of doing amazing things with his future, and he depends on the services for the blind to do so.

I recently found out that part of the DEI budget cuts by our president could include cutting services for the blind for my son. I am absolutely devastated and appalled this is happening. Lane Regional Inclusive Services provides vital services to the blind and visually impaired community, including my son's teacher of the blind and orientation and mobility specialist. I can't even begin to describe what life would be like without the guidance, knowledge, skills, support, and materials provided for Isaac to attend school like everyone else and become an independent thriving adult. I'm in tears thinking about what his future holds without these services. This is not okay!!! Isaac needs all of us to band together to fight this! For him and all of the other children who rely on these services to survive. As vital as water is to your body, as are these necessary programs to my precious son! He deserves the same opportunities as every other child. These cuts could completely eliminate all of it, his teacher of the blind, his aid at school, his adaptive material, his orientation and mobility training, etc.

I'll be at the state capitol advocating and writing our state congressman to fight this. I've fought so hard for my son and I'll continue to do so until my last breath. I have a lot of research and advocating ahead of me.

Thank you