

Ways and Means Testimony 2/28/13

It is my honor to be here today. My name is Brian Cooper and I have been in the EASA program for one and a half years. I cannot say how much EASA has helped me and my family. When I was first diagnosed confusion and fear was a common denominator between me and my family, however EASA was there to clear up the confusion and reduce our fear. They came into our lives at a time when we really needed them and luckily just as early symptoms appeared. Their intervention saved us a lot of grief and gave us a rock that we could fall back on if things got rough, and they did. The team that we worked with were all-stars and helped me understand a part of myself that I never thought I would. Without them I don't know what I would have done.

This is why I feel it is so important that the services of EASA be expanded to a wider range of youth so that they have the opportunity to have the same rock I did during their challenges. I cannot stress enough how beneficial EASA is and the earlier symptoms show, the easier it is to have a smooth recovery without long term effects. So take my words into consideration and know that if you talk to just about anyone from EASA they will only have good things to say. Thank you.

Brian Cooper

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Cooper".

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