

From: Corinne Spiegel [<mailto:corinne@jfcs-portland.org>]
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 10:09 AM
To: Ross Cheyenne
Subject: SB 777

I am writing you to help approve SB 777 in order to implement the ABLE Act in Oregon.

As both a professional and parent of an adult son with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and developmental disabilities, I am compelled to share with you the importance of this Act.

Unlike with my other adult children, I have had to restrain myself from encouraging our son to save, since saving any money from his social security benefits would endanger him losing them entirely. How absurd that is, since he needs to learn to manage money, yet saving anything beyond the decades-old limit of \$2000 would harm him in the long run.

Our son needs a medication that is NOT covered by OHP, despite our appeals with OHP. Not getting the medication could have devastating results, including loss of vision. This medication is SO costly that we are forced to buy it from Canada, at about 1/3 of what it would cost at pharmacies such as Costco. In order to purchase the medication, as his representative payee, I must carefully save his money so that we can get the best possible rate by buying it quarterly. That cautious purchasing technique, in order to save money, means that I must carefully avoid letting his social security benefits accumulate so as to not risk his approaching the \$2000 maximum.

Clearly, having the freedom to put money into an ABLE savings account would allow us the flexibility to save for his needed medications, and future medical needs, in accordance with the federal law. I note too that Virginia is already the first state to enact the federal law, and I urge Oregon to comply with it as soon as possible. Every month matters!

Thank you for your support in getting this proposed bill out of committee and into law.

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