

From: lesli takasugi
To: [JWMED Exhibits](#)
Subject: Continued Support for EI/ECSE programs
Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 7:35:39 PM

Dear Senator(s),

I am a mother of a five-year-old little girl who was diagnosed with Downs Syndrome in utero. EcCares, an early-intervention program in Eugene, OR has been invaluable to my family in so many ways. First of all, on an emotional level, receiving services when my daughter Mukti was just an infant gave us so much support as new parents. We got informed about feeding, about teething, about holding her, about how to stay aware of her increasing needs with regards to occupational and physical therapy, and her overall health in general. Each therapist was knowledgeable, calm, caring, and extremely gifted with how he/she interacted with Mukti. It felt like there was a community around us with tools that served her well-being. I had never experienced resources like these before.

As Mukti has gotten older, EcCares has continued to play a valuable role in her educational, physical, emotional, and cognitive growth. They have sent an instructional aid to help her in a typically developing preschool. First of all, without this IA, it is doubtful that Mukti would have integrated so well into the classroom. There were periods of time when she wasn't sure how she was supposed to interact with others, nor with toys. Having an EcCares IA by her side has provided her with support, encouragement, confidence, and a sense of belonging/acceptance that being on her own may not have. She is now feeling completely comfortable with her peers, as well as modeling their positive behavior.

Lastly, because of a speech delay, she has had the privilege of working with an EcCares speech therapist one-on-one. The therapist, Tyler Wood, gives me continual updates on techniques and exercises so that I can reinforce those at home--during meal times, reading times, bath times, etc... I am so grateful for all that we have been exposed to. There has been so much support and learning.

There are so many families who benefit from early child intervention services such as the ones I described. It is important for our present administration to see the value of our children as citizens who are able to contribute to our society. Early intervention gives them a jump-start on reaching their full potential as human beings who give back on so many levels. EcCares understands the magnitude of what our children can give back.

Please fight for the continued funding of these services. Thank you for your kind attention.

Lesli Takasugi

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