

From: Gayle Moran
To: [JWMHS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Aging & People with Disabilities, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Vocational Rehabilitation - SB 5526
Date: Friday, March 24, 2017 4:35:58 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

w/r to Aging & People with Disabilities, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Vocational Rehabilitation - SB 5526.

We are the parents and co-guardians of a special needs 21 year old daughter who has lived at home with us since birth. Our daughter requires care, supervision and monitoring during her waking hours or approximately 14/24 hours/day. She cannot be left alone. She graduated with a certificate of completion from a special needs ESD classroom in Clackamas County, this past June 2016. There is no further education for the special needs group in this state after age 21. Some states provide post-high special education until the age of 26.

Our daughter has been waiting to get started with a day program since July 2016. This day program facility needs to hire more staff but has had no applicants in the last 4 months. This particular day program is one of the few who are well suited to care for our daughter. Many other day programs either did not have the additional staff to accept new individuals into their program and/or were not able to care for a more complex and challenging special needs individual.

There is a critical shortage of employees to work with the special needs population in their home settings, in day programs, in group homes or Adult Foster Homes in this geographic area (Milwaukie, OR and surrounding areas). We believe this critical shortage may be state-wide.

It is even more difficult to find employees to work with special needs individuals who have more intense intellectual disabilities with behavioral challenges (such as our daughter). This type of work requires more specialized training, education and experience. These employees are paid the same hourly wage as their colleagues who work with the higher functioning special needs individuals who do not exhibit behavioral challenges.

We are even more concerned as we age and are then unable to care for our daughter at home, anymore. Placing an individual with special needs in a group home or Adult Foster Home is much more costly for the county and state vs caring for that individual at home.

Regardless of budgetary restraints, the special needs population will always require care, supervision and monitoring.

We understand the need for more fiscal responsibility and the need to prioritize and support the most vulnerable populations.

Please feel free to contact us for more information and clarification.

503 816 2534

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle (Moran) Braithwaite and Dennis Braithwaite, Parents and Co-Guardians of a Special Needs
Daughter

Gayle M. Moran