


Dear Congress

This is my daughter that is my whole world. The way that helps my daughter with her support plan is because she able to get tools for her to be able to function in society while having a weighted blanket to make her feel clam while having this item. If my daughter did not have money in a support plan my daughter would not be accepted by other children because of her disability. With having her case manager threw DHS they able to find options that I might not even know about for us to use her money to help her succeed with the rest of her life. As a parent of a child with multiple disability's I can't get these tools for her without having this support plan help for us to her life be amazing. Without this support plan help for her to also allow me to use her sensory tools out in public so she can be involved with family school functions and going to a movie theater while seeing my daughters smile because I know in my heart without certain tools she would not be able to do things like this. With her having specialized headphones she is able to enjoy functions that have a lot of stimulation. I am begging as a parent and mother don't take this program and funds away from her. My daughter would not be doing these different activities without her tools for me to be using with her at home and out in public. She needs to have these tools to stay calm while having communication tools that are pec pictures communication apps that allow her to have other people know what her needs are and what she is saying her need is. Please don't destroy a program that makes a huge difference for my daughter. As a parent to support my daughter keep this program going. I don't know how I would be able to get special needs tools for her without this program because it is extremely beneficial for my child that has multiple disability's. Keep this program amazing by allowing me and my daughter to not loose a support plan that opens a whole new world for her.

Amber Plant



Sincerely

Leah Plant is almost 12 years old and lives with diagnoses of mild Cerebral Palsy and Autism. She has individualized education at school and has disability related supports at home through her mom and with assistance from the Family Support budget... a small fund that is managed through her services Coordinator at Deschutes County Intellectual/Developmental Disability Program in Bend, Oregon.

Leah has been involved in the program for several years, and has benefited in many ways. She has been able to participate in therapeutic activities with horses at Healing Reins Therapeutic Riding Center. Leah has been able to improve her communication skills through an augmentative communication app called ProLoQuo2Go, which was purchased using this fund. She has also benefited from many sensory items to help her manage overstimulation and participate in community activities.

The attached pictures of Leah are examples of how much she has been able to do with the help of the Family Support funds. She loves being with the horses in a safe and therapeutic environment. She was able to get her picture with Santa this past year by utilizing her noise cancelling headphones to help her block out the noise of the crowd while she waited in a long line. She has a weighted blanket, a weighted vest, and other items that help her be centered when the environment is too much for her to handle.

The therapy and sensory items that Leah has received through Family Support help her communicate her needs and participate in everyday activities that many children take for granted, and she would not be able to do these things without the help she has received from this program.

