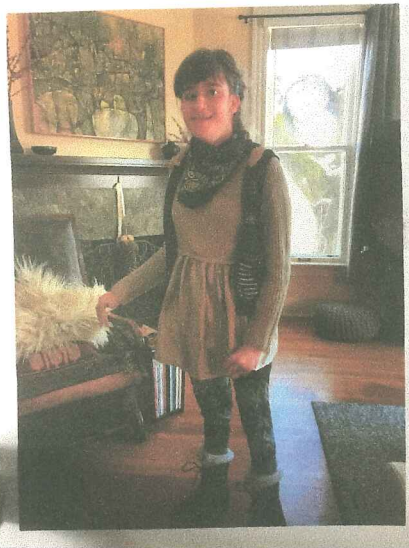


March 28, 2017

To: Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee
From: Alicia DeLashmutt, parent of a child who uses intellectual and developmental disability services to be part of her community.

Co-Chairs Steiner Hayward and Rayfield:

My name is Alicia DeLashmutt. I live in Portland. I want to thank you for this opportunity to share what IDD / Medicaid supports do for our family.



My fabulous 15-year-old daughter Neva was born with a rare genetic syndrome. Her gifts include being a gentle and understanding soul, a love of music and sports and a stubborn streak that she comes by honestly from both her father's and her mother's sides of the family.

The effects of Neva's disability are wide-spread and complex and result in the need for 24/7 care for all activities of daily life (such as safety, personal care and seizure management). Neva will need both paid and natural supports (community / family support) for the entirety of her life. Regardless of her disability, she is a vital and much loved part of our Portland community.

Neva currently receives services under the Community First Choice (K Plan). Neva accesses the funds provided from the K Plan to employ Personal Service Workers (PSWs) that support her functional and safety needs. Neva's PSWs actively work with her to build community connections, friendships and many skills that will benefit her later in life and reduce her need for systems supports as an adult.

Neva will still require supports throughout her life, but starting to build her community as a youth through PSWs is imperative to her success as an adult and necessary to reduce her future systems dependency to the highest extent possible.

Reductions in the funding of the K Plan will have catastrophic effects on our family and will eventually cost Oregon taxpayers more because our family would require expensive crisis services if Neva does not receive adequate supports.

- Reductions will leave my child, my family and many, many others at risk.
- Reductions will cut the time Neva spends forming community, learning life skills and building natural supports.
- Reductions will put our family and Neva at great risk of becoming isolated and segregated by the need to care for Neva.

I urge you to fully fund IDD services. As family that experiences disability, we are just now getting back on our feet and heading in the right direction to becoming contributing, integral participants of our communities. Please don't fail our families by setting back the clock for the disability community.

Sincerely,

Alicia DeLashmutt
aliciadelashmutt@gmail.com
503.319.5003