

To whom it may concern,

I understand that I am a bit late in the game as the hearing is tomorrow but as an autistic mother I really wanted to at least share my feelings on this bill even if it didn't make much of a difference. I'm really excited to see a bill on the table supporting the rights of disabled parents. As an autistic mother I do live with the fear that even though I am a wonderful parent I may be discriminated against for being disabled. A parents abilities are not determined by the labels that the world has placed on us. Even though I am autistic, if you were to go talk to either of my childrens teachers/doctors/specialists and ask if there is anything else I could be doing to give them a better life/chance at life, they would say no (I know this because I've asked.) Because contrary to what people may believe, my autism helps me understand my children in a way that others do not. I deserve the same right to be judged on my actions or inaction instead of my diagnosis. There are many in the autistic, special needs, disabled etc communities that would love to see change happen (and have ideas on what those changes need to be) but aren't sure how to get involved. I am one of them. Thank you for being a voice for us and fighting to ensure we are given the same rights to our children. We love them just as deeply (and I could even argue even more deeply) as neurotypical and non-disabled people.

Thank you for your time,

Jeanné Niphanprasart

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