

Good afternoon,

My daughter, Ava, is 17 years-old and does not use words to communicate. The thought of her becoming ill for any reason and being in the hospital without me is terrifying. She experiences autism and severe anxiety which can, at times, manifest in self injurious behaviors that put herself and others at-risk. She would not be able to function in a hospital environment without someone she knows and trust to support her and explain her wants and needs, as well as her complex medical history.

I have heard so many personal stories from other families who have been denied access to their children during this time and I almost can't believe that it is real. Parents are considering trying to take care of their children at home instead of risking hospitalization, which they are not trained or equipped to do. Our family is taking every precaution and following every guideline to stay safe and avoid hospitalization, but in the event that Ava requires in-patient care, I believe it is my right and duty as her mother to be at her side.

Please support LC 52 and ensure that my daughter will never have to be sick, alone and afraid in a hospital setting.

Thank you,
Carrie Salehiamin