

Dear legislators and representatives,

I am writing to you today to ask that you please pass LC 28 to enact emergency funding for all Oregonians during these time of extreme hardships.

As a parent to a child who has chronic, complex, medical conditions, the pandemic has brought extreme hardships to our family. Due to my child's rare disability, she is 3 times more likely to die from complications related to COVID19.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.nytimes.com/2020/11/10/health/covid-developmental-disabilities.amp.html>

Even in pre-pandemic times, we stay isolated in the winter months, since Juniper gets seizures just from common colds.

We have stayed home and not allowed any visitors since the pandemic began.

My spouse and I gave up our careers in order to provide the 24/7 care that my daughter needs in order to stay alive and thrive. She requires tube feeds every 2 hours.

A few years ago, I started substitute teaching since I adore children, and it is a flexible job that allows me to continue to attend to my child's needs.

Unfortunately, during the pandemic there has not been work for substitutes. I am extremely concerned since my PUA unemployment benefits end on December 26th. Honestly, due to our lifestyle of caregiving, pre-pandemic we were already struggling financially.

Please consider extra support efforts for adults and children with disabilities and those who are medically fragile during these extremely uncertain times.

Please read this article and know that the womxn in this story could be my child. Individuals who do not walk or talk deserve the same, love, care and compassion as everyone else. It's heartbreaking that a Dr decided that she wasn't "worthy" of being saved from COVID19 due to her disability.

<https://www.npr.org/2020/12/14/945056176/as-hospitals-fear-being-overwhelmed-by-covid-19-do-the-disabled-get-the-same-acc>

Kind Regards,

Emily Fern Dayton, MS