

I am writing this letter in regards to the paid parents for kids with disabilities through the phe in Oregon. My child is a medically fragile kiddo. She has many medical issues that require a lot of care. She is nonverbal autistic, she has a rare seizure disorder, cerebral palsy has a g-tube with round the clock feedings and those are just a few of her medical conditions. The paid parenting was temporary through covid's PHE..It is ending on July 15th of this year to my knowledge. This program has benefited our family significantly along with hundreds of other families in Oregon. My daughter's emotional and physical health are improving because she gets to have her mom as her caregiver. It keeps her dignity intact versus the revolving door of caregivers helping her with intimate needs also known as ADL's (activities of daily living). I know when I was 14, I wouldn't want anybody except my mother to help me with those intimate activities such as bathing, toileting, dressing Etc. Not only has it benefited her it has benefited our family financially we have been able to come off of state-funded assistance and been able to actually purchase things for Lily that we would not otherwise be able to afford. She is finally getting the good life she deserves and she's getting to live at home with her mom, with her family.. like any child should. She should not have the intimate care performed with some stranger that an agency sends. DSW's come and go quickly (my daughter has a high level of needs and they realize that and they move on) which hurts her to have a bond with someone and then they leave her. It doesn't make sense to me that the funding is there for a stranger to take care of my child permanently, but the funding isn't there for me to take care of my child permanently. As her mother, as a parent I know nobody will take better care of my child than myself and I can assure you that many, many other parents feel the same way I do. When the PHE ends many families will fall off a fiscal cliff. We will be forced back into poverty forced back into hiring STRANGERS as caregivers for our children and they will come and go quickly. Also forcing parents back into jobs that never last because the caregivers never last... it's a downward spiral for a family's and it's a terrible system. We need help to make this paid parent act stick and be permanent here in Oregon. Many states have adopted the permanent paid parenting of children with disabilities Colorado, California, Arizona and Minnesota.. those are just a few off the top of my head. I hope that Oregon can have a change in this system and allow parents to be compensated Caregivers for their children. Nobody deserves to be compensated for the hard work more than the parents who have no choice except to perform care and who won't abandon their children when something better comes up like so many outside parents do. I'm sure this is not the first time you have heard a parent advocate for their child concerning this issue I'm sure I am one of many but I want my voice to be heard so I am writing you. Please help my family and please help the other hundreds and hundreds of Oregon families facing the same struggle that I am facing and they are facing. Please support us in this change.

Best wishes,

Stacy Woodworth and Lily Lycett