

Hello, my name is Lauren, I live in Medford, and I have an 8 year old son who experiences disability. My son was born with a rare chromosome disorder and is the only documented case in the world with a chromosome arrangement like his. He was born with a heart condition, developmental delay, vision difficulties, and he is hard of hearing. Despite this list of medical diagnoses, he is an energetic boy whose smile lights up the room. He is a 2nd grader and thriving in school because of the invaluable direct support that he receives from our Regional Program in Southern Oregon.

Year after year there have been statewide service reductions and service cuts for children age birth - 21 with Autism, Traumatic Brain Injury, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Vision Impairment, DeafBlindness and Orthopedic Impairment. Children with these complex needs, like my son, rely on highly specialized and critically needed support. The sky is the limit for my son and the support from his Regional Program is what sets his trajectory. I ask that you fund Regional Programs so that they can help children reach their true potentials. We can't afford to let these children down. Thank you.