



February 5, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to respectfully ask that you continue allowing parents to work as the primary caregivers for their children who have intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. During the pandemic, many people were forced to discover ways to work from home in other industries, as many businesses were forced to close permanently or endured severe restrictions on providing their services, causing many of them to reduce their staffing numbers significantly. An unforeseen by-product of this was that many of those unemployed workers found jobs working from home that allowed them to reduce their outgoing expenses, as they no longer had commuting costs, daycare, or other related expenses to continue paying. As the pandemic lessened, many of these people chose to continue working from home, which is still affecting us in the way of supply chain issues and lack of staffing in many industries, including the service provider industry.

Many I/DD provider agencies and parents have found it extremely difficult to find high quality care providers for their children, and these parents are still expected to care for their children while holding down a job or two at the same time. Thankfully, the State saw this need and made an accommodation for it by allowing parents to work with their children as the primary care provider. The positive results of that decision can be seen in the level of care received by these children, and the financial benefits gained for these parents who can now both care for their children and pay their bills. These results cannot be ignored, and this employment opportunity for these parents must be allowed to continue.

Please, for the sake of these families, make the right choice and allow biological and/or adoptive parents to remain as the primary caregivers for their children. Oregon has been an innovative state in so many ways, please let this be one more way that we pave the way for others to follow. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and thank you in advance for moving this opportunity in the right direction for Oregon children in the I/DD community and their families!

Respectfully,

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