

Submitter: Julie Hall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB646

Hello, my name is Julie, I live in Salem, Oregon. I'm speaking today on behalf of our daughter. She is 6 years old with a long list of medical diagnoses including cerebral palsy, anxiety and complex congenital cardiac defect. Our daughter is home full time with me. As her mother and caregiver, I help and support her through life.

When our daughter qualified for services through Marion County Disability five years ago, determinations were made about the amount of support hours she qualified for. I was hopeful for help and support for her, so she would be able to receive care in her most favorite and safest environment, her home. The hours of support were great, and we looked forward to having some help. Finding an in-home caregiver has been incredibly hard, near impossible. It took us years to find a person willing to work the job and then to have them show up late and not be capable of the job description. It ended up being a great cause of stress for our daughter. Having a caregiver in the home ended up making our lives hard, especially our daughters. Her anxiety was through the roof which resulted in me continuing to do the majority of her supports because of the behavioral component.

My role as a parent extends beyond the typical parenting duties for a 6 year old child. I am doing the daily work of a paid caregiver. With my daughters fragile heart because of her cardiac defect and her mental health because of the anxiety a family caregiver is the best option to support her. Please support this bill. Please give my daughter the caregiver she deserves – mom!