

Submitter: Sarah Jayne

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB646

Sarah here, Portland mom and registered nurse to two autistic kids ages 3 and 6. I'm writing in support of paid parent caregiving in SB 646 (and SB 91 with modifications). Finding and training high quality care for my children has become my super power. And yet. It is far from enough. This support I set out to find? They likely don't exist (yet). Or they do but they move on to a different job (again). Or, most commonly, they exist but my kid doesn't feel safe and can't function until they leave. These beautifully complex kids of mine have a disability that triggers their nervous system to light up at the thought or sight of outside help in our home. All this combined? It doesn't work. I look to the future with heartache and disappointment that I, that hundreds of caregivers across the state, are forced to continue attempting the impossible of outsourcing a job that is not outsourceable. All while we parents are here. Qualified and more than willing to do the work. Finding and training high quality care for my children has become my superpower. And let me be clear - it is not enough. Please support parents to do this work that is so desperately needed.