

Submitter: Tera West West

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human
Services

Measure: HB5026

HB 5026

3/2/2023

Co-Chair Senator Campos, Co-Chair Representative Valderrama, and members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services.

My name is Tera West. I am in support of HB 5026 to fully fund ODDS and to anticipate additional bills being passed that would increase the budget. There are many that impact my child. I am the mother of one child that is disabled, has congenital heart defects and is high medical. We are in strong support of SB 646 and SB 91, both would allow a permanent program for paid parent direct support professionals. Families having choices in how to utilize the services for the child is vital to the child's success.

ODDS provides many lifelines through their support. Access to open card insurance is very important for my child and her high medical health. Attendant care is also given and essential for my child's home and community based services. Through the PHE and the allowance of a paid parent caregiver my child has had her attendant care services utilized. Historically there have not been workers in the Willamette Valley in Western Oregon to provide the care. I'd like to bring to attention supports given through attendant care that are beyond "tying shoes, zipping a jacket, and cutting meat". In our children's world attendant care is, monitoring and supporting the child, providing life saving skills with high medical demands, community inclusion, providing safety so that children can participate in community outings, lifting and positioning, assisting with adaptive equipment such as wheelchair, gait trainer, toileting chair, changing table, dressing, afo braces, grooming, diaper changes, bathing, communicating, hand spoon feeding, meal prep, assisting with drinking, teeth brushing, pica monitoring, following a positive behavior support plan, praising and encouraging our children, monitoring type 1 diabetes and treatment for highs and lows and all the care 24 hours a day, elopement awareness and prevention, preventing meltdowns, regulating the environment for their sensory needs ever changing, giving all opportunities for self determination and choices, skill building, helping with communication devices and pecs cards, monitor for choking and aspiration, severe food allergy awareness and steps to keep child safe, keeping safe from illness with immunocompromised children, provide a predictable/ routine environment, provide dependable care, support child socially and emotionally. These are not all support's given, just a few I could quickly name off. ODDS also provides case management and ciis services and access to positive behavior support plans, home modifications, equipment and supplies. We are very thankful for the services and I am asking you to support to fund the ODDS budget. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tera West