

Submitter: Kelly Headrick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB1565

Chair Patterson and Committee Members:

I represent the nonprofit organization Autism Speaks in several Western states. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive world for all individuals with autism throughout their lifespan. We do this through advocacy, services, supports, research and innovation, and advances in care for autistic individuals and their families.

I'm writing to share our strong support of SB1565, which we believe would be very helpful for the care of autistic minors with significant needs. As you likely know, there is a great shortage of care providers, within the autistic community as well as the larger population. Autism diagnoses have significantly increased in recent years, and many individuals and families are suffering. The passage of SB91 was a great start last session, but holds promise of only serving a small subset of children and families in need. No one should have to rely on winning a "lottery" to receive the hours they need covered. We thank Senator Hayden and all co-sponsors, and we greatly appreciate your attention to this written testimony; I urge your yes vote.

Thank you,
Kelly Headrick