

Hi,

It is heart breaking to hear that somebody is after cutting funds to the most vulnerable in the community and those who provide services to them. Who deserves more support than a kid with mental or physical disability? I am Peggy, an engineer at Intel. My son, Ian, is a 4-year-old boy. He was born in mid of Covid and Oregon fire in an unusual bad circumstances and he has been struggling with developmental delays. He is going to special education at Beaverton since Dec 2024. Before attending special education, he was not speaking, had difficulty understanding others and frequently hitting or biting people around him outside home. Let me tell you that we have tried everything before Special education, we tried all kinds of private therapies and well-known private childcares. The therapies were not effective because Ian had hard time following direction and they were solo treatment, so the therapist couldn't help his interactions with others. The hardest part of life, Ian got kicked out of 4 different private childcare in less than 18 months because of his developmental delays, you think they cannot do that to a child, but sure they can! they simply asked us to take Ian somewhere else because they had concern around safety and they were short staff to provide 1:1 that he needed. It was truly a nightmare, there was absolutely no place for my kid to be accepted and loved. Not only private childcare staff were not happy to see my kid, he also was struggling so much, going through extreme anxiety with every drop off, he begged us not to take him. But then we hopelessly started special education in Dec 2024 and God bless these people for what they do. In less than 3 months they have done magic in our life. Ian doesn't hit anybody anymore, he is more social to people and shows the kindness that he has always had in him, he speaks way more words and even in full sentences, he is looking forward to the school days, he likes his teacher and classmates, he goes to school happy and comes back home happy. For the first time in his life, he is loved outside home. We can see the progress with every single day that he goes to special education.

It was never about money for our family, we had and did spend all money to get Ian the help he needed, but it wasn't working. We could see how private sector was cruel to my little boy, how he was getting pushed to the edge and how he was suffering from not getting enough kindness and help. Simply, there is nothing like Special education out there that would take care of a difficult kid like mine. The special education teachers are not like private childcare staff. These are therapist, educated, and experienced dealing with kids with all sorts of mental and physical problems. The special education teachers are real heroes. I don't have enough words to express my gratitude for them!

This is a vital organization, cutting its funds might save some money short term but in long term it would cost the society many mentally or physically failed individuals who could have been successful otherwise. I humbly request the budget decision makers to exclude this organization from any fund cut.

with Regards,

Peggy (Ian's mom)

