

Submitter: Hannah Carey-Brown
On Behalf Of: Grayson Collier
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: 2026 Agency Reduction Options

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

I'm writing on behalf of a family I care deeply about - a family facing an impossible situation because of your proposal to eliminate the parental income disregard.

Their beautiful 4-year-old son Grayson has cerebral palsy and a rare genetic condition. Last year, he spent months on ECMO life support, fighting for his life. Watching him survive was a miracle. Watching him thrive now with his caregiver has been a gift.

Grayson is making progress his family celebrates every single day. His caregiver works with him on skills that come naturally to other kids but require intensive intervention for him. He's learning, growing, and developing during the most critical window for early intervention.

But Grayson can't attend typical preschool or daycare. At 4, he's not developmentally ready for a typical setting. His caregiver isn't a convenience - she's essential. Without her, his mom can't work. More importantly, without her, Grayson loses the specialized support helping him reach his potential.

This family loves Grayson fiercely. They advocate for him tirelessly. They work hard and do everything right. And now you're telling them Grayson can only access the care he needs if they're at poverty level?

Grayson's cerebral palsy is just as real whether his parents are struggling financially or holding steady. His need for therapy doesn't disappear based on their income. Why should his access to care?

The parental income disregard exists because it's the right thing to do - it recognizes that a child's medical needs should determine their eligibility, not their parents' paychecks.

Grayson has fought so hard. He survived when the odds were against him. Now he's thriving, making progress, living his best life with the support he needs.

Please don't take that away from him.

Keep the parental income disregard. Let families access care based on their

children's needs. Do right by Oregon's kids like Grayson.

With gratitude,
Hannah Carey-Brown
Eugene, OR