

Submitter: Oriana Horneck
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4040

My name is Oriana Horneck. I live in Portland with my husband and 10 year old son who is medically fragile and has multiple disabilities due to a rare neurological disorder. This disease impacts all aspects of his life and so he requires 24/7 care. He is in the highest needs group that qualifies for the CEN program.

I'm writing today in support of allowing parents of kids in the CEN program to have the option to be PSWs. This is important because PSWs are cheaper for the state compared to DSPs (employed by agencies). With this savings, more spots in the CEN program would open up. Currently, there are only 155 spots which at the start was only 10% of the estimated kids that qualify for the program. That means 90% of kids who qualify for this program are unable to access it due to lack of funding. The state is not meeting the needs of these children who deserve the option to have their parents as a paid caregiver.

I urge you to allow the option for parents to be PSWs in the CEN program. It is allowed when the kids turn 18 years old, so why not before then?

Thank you.