

Date: 3/24/23

RE: Letter of Support for SF 1593 and SF 1765

Dear Chair John Hoffman and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

I am a parent to two young children, my oldest, who just turned 4 years old in January, was diagnosed with autism in November of 2022. As of today, we have been unable to utilize the EIDBE benefit, although my son has been accepted into a program with a local provider. We are constituents of district 28A.

Two days before my son was scheduled to start his therapeutic services, we received notification that our insurance was declining coverage for any intensive therapy. My husband and I both work full time, and I hold our private insurance through my employer. It came as a huge shock to hear that although Early Intervention is so much encouraged, we would be unable to start our son's therapy because of insurance coverage.

I applied for Medical Assistance for our son, as we cannot afford to pay out of pocket, and we were immediately turned down due to income restrictions. We were then advised to apply for TEFRA, which I did. We are now two months from when our son was supposed to start therapy, and we are still under review by the State Medical Review Team. This is 4 hours a day, 5 days a week, for 8 weeks, that our son has been unable to receive this therapy.

My husband and I work hard and do everything we can to provide for our family and give our kids the best life possible. However, we have discussed the possibility of my having to leave my job, and lose our private health insurance, so that we can qualify for Medical Assistance, or I can stay home and work with our son more one-on-one myself. I am not a professional, and I do not feel that would be in the best interest of my son. Nor would the lack of my income help alleviate any stresses.

I hope you can support SF 1593 and SF 1765. As a parent, it would mean the world to me if you would consider supporting this measure to increase the access and availability to therapy for children in our communities.

Sincerely,

Emily Lindquist

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