

Hi, my name is Leslie Cecilio and I was there at the meeting today about healthcare, Medicaid, ATAP for autism. I would like to write and personally thank each and everyone of you who listened and take our concerns into consideration

Most of the kids with autism like my 5 year old daughter are non verbal. They have no voice, they cannot speak for themselves. We as parents, family, interventionists, consultants for ABA therapy and all the supporters are being reunited so we can be our children's voice.. to help them and to help our lawmakers like you guys to understand the importance of autism and all the therapies were providing for our children.

ABA Therapy is just the main one but they also should receive speech and occupational therapies or more depending on the child's needs. You have to remember we have to start these therapies as early as 18 months old or as early as we get the diagnosis. The earlier we start the better prognosis they have. Autism is a lifelong battle for both parents and the children who has it. There is no cure for this. If We start these therapies it can help them to have a descent and quality of life so that when the parents are gone or when we can no longer take care of them as adults they will have a chance in life only if we just continue to provide services for them. So we can teach them how to live and how to communicate their needs. I don't want my child or any child with autism to end up in a government mental facility or die because they couldn't take care of themselves. I want my child and the other kids on the spectrum to be productive citizens who are able to take care of themselves when no one will be there for them. I think about this every day for my child and I cry about it every night. Taking away or even allowing Medicaid or ATAP to lower the rates to pay providers or interventionists will greatly affect our therapies and the transition of established families like us to our providers will be affected, it will be so hard for the kids!!! And then our whole family not just our child will suffer.

Please listen to us the parents who walk the walk. We need help from the government to continue in providing services to our children so they can have a chance in their lifetime. Do not take away our freedom to choose our providers and our interventionists who knows our children's strengths and weaknesses and works hard to train themselves along with our consultants to properly care and to provide one on one intervention that our children needs. As a tax payer and my families who have been working their whole life and paying taxes, not breaking any rules, I think my child deserves a little help to get the services she needs. No one in my family abuse the system, we all work hard to live. We don't get any other assistance from the government except for the funding of our ABA Therapy. My insurance pays for my Occupational and speech Therapy unfortunately ABA Therapy is not covered by my insurance which needs to be looked at to as well. I need to make sure that my child will have the continued services that she needs until she is able to care for herself. The hours that we do for her therapies are very important, the training and the quality of the provider like The Lovaas Center is what we need in this state, because they are effective and we can see the progress that our child shown. We should not rushing ourselves into a wrong decision just to make sure other kids are on the waiting list to be given services who from those who are not qualified as ABA therapy providers, these companies needs to be regulated anyways. The children are still waiting and the government is allowing them to wait and delay the treatments that's needed. It's not good for the children and it's not good for the government as well. In behalf of our family and friends at the Las Vegas all star basketball league, my co workers at Sunrise Hospital I have left the letter at

the meeting today with signatures of our family and friends who are in favor and support for my child with autism and for all the other families and kids affected with autism in regards to the government's decision, they signed their names and provided addresses because they listened to our needs and they know the importance of what we are fighting for. They are in full support of continued quality service for our children. full support for all the children to obtain Therapies and services according to their needs and full support for continue in helping the lives of children with autism and other disabilities. So if these signatures and support matters to our lawmakers, they need to hear our concerns and change the rates for Medicaid, ATAP and look into more detail to make sure you guys are making the right decision and if it will be good for our children.

Thank you, we hope and pray that the changes will be for the better and not for the worst. We will remember those who helped us and we will be forever grateful to those who have been with us through this tough journey.