Paid Family Caregivers

The heart behind the truth

COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

My name is Tracey and I'm a paid parent caregiver to my son Colton. I'm 51 years old and Colton is almost 11.

Colton has multiple diagnoses. He's profoundly autistic, nonverbal, PICA, gait issues, scoliosis and has ADHD. He currently gets his nutrition through Pediasure 1.5 through a Dr. Brown baby bottle. The only foods he eats are puree Gerber baby foods. He is currently under several specialists that we have to travel to Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Ohio.

Without waiver services and being paid to be his caregiver; my little family would be in crisis. The funds I get are used to pay for extra Pediasure 1.5 (at $80 a case, we buy 3 cases a month) because he's only allowed to have 6 per day that Medicaid will pay for.

The rest are out of pocket expenses, such as traveling out of state to see specialists. We also must purchase extra pull-ups each month and extra wipes as he is unable to potty train.

Colton requires supervision around the clock due to self-injurious behaviors, pica and his sleep issues. He only sleeps around 4 hours a day and has done this since birth.

Colton has moderate to high anxiety and does not trust other people to attend to his needs. We currently utilize in home speech therapy for this reason.

These funds are imperative for his wellbeing and survival. It provides occupational supplies, housing, transportation, sensory enrichment supplies and it also ensures that we can afford his nutritional supplements. Without it, we would be forced to institutionalize our child, which would cost the taxpayers more. It ensures he can remain in his own home with supports.