

Human Services Finance Subcommittee

RE: Letter of Support for HF 1604

Dear Chair Fischer and Committee Members,

Both my godchild and my nephew have Autism Spectrum Disorder. As a public health professional, I am very aware of the shortage of providers for EIDBI and therapy – and as a member of Equity and Diversity networks, I am even more aware of the resulting lack of access and affordability that is compounded for our diverse kids. Another obstacle is the source of insurance. The children with the most need qualify for Medicaid, however the Medicaid reimbursement rates are SO LOW (and have not changed in over a decade), so more and more providers are closing shop or limiting Medicaid clients.

We will NOT support these children if we keep going at this rate.

If we don't invest in emergency funding now, more and more children – especially children of color – will languish on waitlists. Please don't leave our children hanging.

I live in Senate District 4, House District 65. I hope you can support HF 1604. As a professional AND a caregiver, 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,



Lilliam Pinero

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