

For SB 348:

*Carolyn McGinn, Chair and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee*

My Son Shane is a 30 year old man with severe Autism. He is nonverbal and has a very hard time expressing his wants and needs. The importance of consistency and trusting rapport between him and his staff is paramount.

When Shane is with Staff that don't know him they are given an impossible task they are doomed to fail. He is talking to them in a language they do not know. He will get frustrated and mad and start banging his head. We will hear about it later from his van driver that brings him home. She knows him well. She will tell us he had a bad day he was with staff that didn't know him. She will tell us that she told the staff person not to be in his face so much to back off he doesn't like that. What this lead to is bad behavior. And the staff member will say he just went off for no reason. This is all because she did not know him.

I think everyone's goal in life is to be happy. That's all We have ever wanted for Shane. The difference in me and Shane is I can make my own Happiness he needs one on one help to make his. Shane needs a controlled environment that he understands and staff that know how to provide it. Shane will never be happy without one on one help from trained staff. Me and my wife have accomplished this at home. We try to bring our success to day services and they do the best they can but fail sometimes because of staff turnover and not being able to provide one on one care all the time.

Me and my wife's biggest fear is to pass on and not leave our son in the best of care. At least as good as it is now with us.

Robert Ireland - Shane's / Father / Guardian  
*Robert Ireland* 2-10-20