

SB 255

Public Health – Home- and Community-Based Services for Children and Youth

Senate Finance Committee

February 15, 2023

SUPPORT

Please support SB 255.

I reside in Frederick, MD & received custody of 2 grandchildren January 1, 2022. Both grandchildren, because of their parents SUD issues & COVID, are severely behind academically, socially & emotionally. My granddaughter, Rebecca, has been diagnosed with general anxiety & my grandson, Nathan, has been diagnosed with ADHD, PTSD & general anxiety. It has truly been an uphill battle trying to get them the services needed to help them succeed in life & overcome their past, especially my grandson, Nathan.

The children were isolated in a rural area of the county during Covid. The parents succumbed to SUD struggles. There was no internet, so they were unable to attend school for 1&1/2yrs. Because there was no school, there were no mandated reporters to witness what the children were living through. The horrors they endured during that time are unimaginable.

It was advised that I get Nathan into Targeted Case Management for multiple reasons – if the children were to return to the parents in the future, it would make the process simpler for the parents & assist with transportation to appointments to assist with scheduling & juggling employment & parenthood, access to the funds for tutoring, trauma therapy, respite care & even karate, which hopefully would assist with self-control.

We completed the intake with the Targeted Case Management Provider in Sept/Oct of 2022 & we qualified, but we have JUST in February gotten someone assigned finally to my grandson 4mths later & there has been no plan of action, extraordinarily little assistance, little communication & the program is just plain dismal & extremely disappointing. It is over a year since I received custody of my grandchildren & I have yet to obtain the assistance the child desperately needs.

Currently they are threatening to institutionalize my grandson & I am knocking on every door I can find seeking the help that was promised & not fulfilled. Please support SB 255. Our children need & deserve your help.

Sheryl L. Murray
520 Military Rd
Frederick, MD 21702
301-514-3430
Sherrylennox@hotmail.com