

Lisa Merhi  
19407 Kildonan Drive  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879  
240-888-7399

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask for your consideration in extending Special Education Services. My son Michael has an Autism diagnosis and attends the Ivymount School in Rockville, MD. Due to the prolonged school closure from Covid-19, the school's inability to implement the Career Development class will cause Michael to graduate *early*.

Michael's IEP Team had previously approved an anticipated graduation date of June 2022. Through distance learning, Michael will complete the needed credits to graduate in a shorter time frame. Since Michael will graduate early, he will miss valuable Career Development instruction, which includes a Work-Based Learning experience and Community Based Instruction.

Due to early graduation, Michael will also lose his Maryland Autism Waiver services in June. He will be unable to continue with the Travel Training program we had in place, teaching him to ride public transportation independently. I respectfully ask that you support this Bill's passing to extend Special Education Services for our most vulnerable population, including my son Michael. I hope and pray that Michael can stay at his school until June 2022, as was planned for and approved by his IEP team before the pandemic forced schools to provide remote instruction.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Merhi