

Name: Michelle Yeo

Gender: Female

Date of Birth: March 6, 2006 (18 years old)

Parents: Michael Yeo & Semi Yeo

Address: 206 Commodore Dr., Baltimore, MD 21221

Email: one-k@msn.com

Diagnosis: Autism, Developmental Disability

Current Service: Autism Waiver – Community First Choice (CFC)

Challenges & Daily Living Needs

Michelle requires **24/7 intensive support** due to **severe cognitive, communication, and behavioral challenges**:

- **Non-verbal** – Cannot express her needs through speech.
 - **Relies on visual communication at home**; uses an **iPad at school** for limited expression.
 - **Severe cognitive delays** – Cannot understand or follow basic instructions independently.
 - **Self-care limitations**:
 - **Not toilet-trained.**
 - **Cannot use utensils**—eats with her hands due to lack of motor coordination.
 - **Can undress but cannot dress herself.**
 - **Receives hormonal treatment every three months to prevent menstrual bleeding**, as she is unable to **handle the physical and emotional distress caused by menstruation.**
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Behavioral Challenges

Michelle's **behavioral and self-injurious tendencies require constant supervision**:

- **Frequent aggression** – Hits others, with her **mother being the primary victim.**
- **Severe self-harm** – Hits her own head and **destroys objects** (e.g., rips books, removes wet diapers).
- **Unpredictable outbursts** – Throws objects when frustrated, without a clear trigger.

- **Behavioral incidents occur 4-5 times per week**, causing distress and safety concerns.
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Supportive Services & Needs

- **LISS Funding** – iPad provided for **communication assistance**.
 - **Full-time caregiving required** – **Mother is currently unemployed** to care for Michelle, as her **high needs make employment impossible**.
 - **Autism Waiver & CFC Services** – Essential for maintaining **Michelle's daily care and safety**.
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Why Continued Funding is Critical

Michelle **requires lifelong, intensive support**. Any reduction in services would:

- **Jeopardize her safety**, as she is **unable to communicate distress, follow safety instructions, or regulate her behaviors**.
 - **Increase risks for family caregivers**, as she exhibits **frequent aggressive outbursts**.
 - **Diminish her quality of life**, making progress in communication and daily living skills **nearly impossible**.
 - **Eliminate essential medical care**, such as **hormonal treatment for menstrual suppression**, leading to **severe distress and behavioral regression**.
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Call to Action

To ensure Michelle continues to receive **critical care and support**, we urge legislators to:

1. **Protect and expand funding for community-based DDA services.**
2. **Maintain or increase service hours to provide consistent, specialized support.**
3. **Support full-time caregivers** who must leave employment to care for high-needs children.
4. **Ensure assistive technology access** (such as **LISS-funded iPads**) to improve **non-verbal communication options**.

5. **Preserve medical coverage for necessary treatments, including hormonal therapy for menstrual suppression, as its removal would cause severe physical and emotional distress.**