

Good Morning,

I am Jimara Kocik, mom of three sons, and one of my sons, age 12, has profound autism. I am asking the committee to vote yes and advance the bill SB 0583, this important legislation.

I believe the Development Disability Administration should notify the public of changes to policies, procedures, and guidance.

I hear and experience very often that there have been changes to documents over the past year at expedited times that families, providers, and people with disabilities have not had the opportunity to express how those changes affect their lives, as well as the staff supporting them. And providers, sometimes with short staff, find it difficult to work and process their services because of the short time to implement those new changes.

I believe people with disabilities, families, and providers should be given the respect and time to process change because it is a fair way to have them at the table making decisions affecting them directly. Their voice matters, and it is important to always consider their point of view.

They have the right to decide how they want to work with, live with, and vote with, and have all the freedom to do so, as well as to have a voice in the community.

Please, approve the SB 0583 Bill.

Thank you for your time and services and for your continued commitment to our community.

Jimara Kocik
Community Advocate.