

Senate Bill 10-121 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Talking Points For Self-Advocates and Families**

**Below are some ideas that you resonate with your life and that you may want to share with your representatives in the Colorado General Assembly. Please pay close attention to the body of the email that you received to “time” your message so that it will have the most impact. These are just ideas. We know that you have many more. We suggest that you make your email and/or voice mail short and concise. Remember this legislation is an attempt to create a mechanism that will improve the systems that support children and adults with disabilities, so try to end you message with a positive – tell them how this work with help.**

**If you have questions or concerns, please contact:**

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**Thanks to you all!**

The school districts have some resources, the CCBs have other resources, Medicaid has other resources, private insurance pays for some things, but I don't know which program pays for what and many programs have waiting lists. I hope this committee can find ways to pool some of the public resources so that people get what they need.

I'd like to get a job, I want to work. When I was in school I worked for a little while, but then I got a new manager and she didn't like me, now I don't know if I should go to the Workforce Center, Vocational Rehabilitation, the Community Centered Board said there was a waiting list. I just want to have a job like everyone else. I want the committee to figure out how Voc Rehab and the CCB can work together so when I get a job, I can have the help I need to keep it.

My three year old couldn't talk very well, I took him to the doctor, he said he needed speech therapy because he has autism. The school said he needed special education, but that he could only get a little bit of therapy there, but they can't find a speech therapist to hire. I went to the CCB, they said there was a waiting list. My insurance didn't want to pay for the therapy either. I don't know where to go or what to do. My son still can't talk very well. I think that the schools and the CCB want to help my son but there's a big disconnect between what they want to do and what they are allowed to do. It doesn't make sense. I have a friend in another state with a daughter who also didn't speak; my friend's care coordinator got the school, a doctor, a speech therapist and a technical expert together to come up with a plan that includes all of them. With the help of a computer program, her daughter is finally able to speak a little and her behavior has improved as well.

I am thirty years old, I live with my parents. I want to get a job, I want to live in an apartment with my friend George. I want to live a life like everyone else. The CCB says there is a waiting list. The people at Voc Rehab say they tried to find me a job, but I will need on-going support. I just sit in my parent's house while they are at work and watch TV. It makes me sad. I don't need a lot of help from the state—just a little. I wish there was a way for me to just get what I need—not what other people think I need.

My son has a lot of disabilities and is about to graduate from school. I talked to an advocacy organization and they said that I need to do a lot of things to get him some services. I am totally overwhelmed! I have to talk to the CCB, Voc Rehab, Low-income housing, the single entry point for long-term care, Social Security, file for guardianship, figure out if he can ride the bus safely, or if not, I have to see if he is eligible for Access-A-Ride and probably more things that I can't remember. I work full-time and have another younger child to take care of. I don't know how I will get all of this done. I sent some stuff about this yesterday.

My teenage son with developmental disabilities is out of control. He is hitting me and his older sister everyday. Sometimes he just goes into a rage and starts punching holes in the wall. When he does this at school, they call me and tell me that I have to come pick him up because he is a danger to himself and others. I'm afraid that I will lose my job because I have to leave work early so often. His doctor has suggested various medications, but none of them to help. I don't think he needs more medication—he needs to work with someone who can help him learn better ways to behave when he gets frustrated. I know that if someone could work with him on a regular basis for a while, he would be able to control himself. Sometimes I am so afraid that I want to call the police, but I am more afraid that the police might hurt my son, he doesn't understand the consequences of his actions and I'm not sure that most police officers know how to help when he is out of control. I asked for help from the mental health center, but they said that his problems were "behavioral" and not because of a mental illness. I don't know where to go or what to do. I know that there are experts who can help my son but it seems like there are too many barriers in the way that keep the experts from sharing information with each other and the system for paying for services is too complicated.