

Marie Woznick 5558

Dear Committee Members,

I am the grandmother of a 15 year old teen living with autism. Michael is his name. He has had interventions beginning at a very young age. Over the years, his progress has been very positive and he is learning to become an independent, self-reliant, responsible young person. His parents have worked diligently and tirelessly to provide a nurturing environment for him. They have indeed sacrificed much. In a few short years, Michael will be a young adult. It would be a tragedy to allow all this hard work and effort to help Michael to be lost because of the lack of a program for young adults with ASD. These young people desperately need supportive services to help them cope with this changing world. We can not allow them to regress once they become young adults. We must not abandon them. They need our support.

Michael is now a sophomore at Fairfield High School. He is working very hard to succeed in all his subjects and has learned to be responsible about his homework assignments and school projects...not an easy task for a child with autism. Each and every day he is learning to be more and more self-reliant and independent. With the help of his parents, teachers, and therapists, Michael is learning to accept responsibility and be productive!

I am very proud of my grandson's progress in his short life. It has been a struggle for him to succeed, but through constant and persistent guidance and encouragement, he is finally experiencing substantial success. More importantly, and in spite of his challenges, Michael has always been a loving, caring, kind and considerate individual. He deserves the opportunity to be all that he can be.

I urge you to support this Bill No HB 5558. It will give my grandson access to the supportive services necessary for him to become a productive, independent member of the community. Once again...I urge you...please support this bill for Michael and all the other young people who, like him, will need these supportive services as young adults.

Sincerely,  
Marie Woznick  
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Sent from my iPad