

I feel compelled to give my personal experience as a mother with a child who was diagnosed special needs and was a client of the birth to three programs. I would not have gotten through this devastated time in my life without the support and compassion of the staff. Beyond that they were well trained, knowledgeable in their field and went the extra mile to make sure "Brandon" my son received all the appropriate services he needs to thrive and succeed. I plea with the law makers; decision makers to please think about the repercussion these changes will have on the vulnerable lives that will be impacted without the early interventions that birth to three provide families everyday. Financial compensation and reimbursement rates will impact the caliber of professionals that these programs will attract and this will definitely have an impact on the quality of services that these young lives will receive. Studies have shown time and time again that the first 5yrs of a child life is the most critical and not being able to give them quality head start in those vital years only slower the chance of success later. Please I beg don't do this to our children; my child or any child. Think this through completely; don't make a decision based on finances only but look at the complete picture the benefits for our little people. These children can't advocate for themselves; we are the adults we are their voices; we are their hope. Let us do what is right for them.

Thank you,

Chereen Chambers.