

March 3, 2015

TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 918

Good Afternoon,

My name is William Longyear. I am a member of ***Our Families Can't Wait*** .

My two sons, Kevin is 29 years old and Timothy is 26 years old and both have Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/Autism . Kevin has more of a vocabulary than Tim who can be hard to understand.

Both boys need 24/7 care for they are not aware of safety issues, know how to use transportation , cook, read, write and other daily living situations, they cannot function independently.

I am their only caregiver because my wife (their Mom) passed away 8 years ago after ten years of receiving chemo and medical care for breast cancer and it's only the three of us now.

My concern is about my boy's future when I'm gone; where will they live, who will provide their needed services and who will actually care ***about their happiness?***

I promised my wife before she died I would not **Separate them** they are best friends and don't even know/understand that I have put them on the waiting list, it is unconscionable to separate my guys, I want to be able to help with the transition of my boys into a new living environment.

There is no question that I am very upset with the pending budget cuts that the state has issued. There is no plan with DDS to prepare for her future. DDS is NOT fully funded and many persons with I/DD are not being serviced as they desperately need to be.

The bill before you – **Senate Bill 918**, gives you the opportunity to start in the right direction to provide for those individuals who are forgotten. It will help secure the future care of our loved ones. Let us all be on one accord as to what actions are necessary to fulfill this most important task of taking care of our most vulnerable citizens, people with **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and those who provide direct care for them. That solution would be Senate Bill 918.** I therefore ask you to vote for **Senate Bill 918** so that we can once again have some hope that our government is still working for ALL people no matter if they are different in any way.

THANK YOU,  
William Longyear  
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