

Chairwoman Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and Members of the Committee, my name is Kris Jones.

This is a picture of my daughter, Taylor. She was born in 1985 and she died in 2024. Taylor was born five weeks premature with a Diaphragmatic Hernia, Cerebral Palsy, Hydrocephalus, a missing kidney, Scoliosis, and seizures. She immediately had surgery for the Diaphragmatic Hernia - the doctors gave her a 10% chance of surviving the surgery. She was as stubborn as I am and she made it through.

Surgery after surgery followed along with multiple lengthy hospital stays - one 'visit' lasted six months. She visited a total of 38 specialists and each time she saw a doctor the visit ended with the doctor saying 'Well, I think we have a handle on this but...' with a referral to another specialist. Our house was full of medical equipment - a nebulizer, an oxygen concentrator, a wheelchair, a rollator, various back braces, leg braces, and ankle-foot orthosis.

At the time my husband and I worked at P&G. After I had Taylor, I was contemplating not returning to work but Taylor's primary doctor said I should keep working and enroll Taylor in a daycare because she needed the stimulation of being around other children and the peer pressure would help her develop. I spent days and days and days trying to find a daycare that would accept and could care for Taylor.

But there were no 'special daycares' in Ohio for Taylor. I remembered an article on Easter Seals Redwood that I had cut out of the newspaper years ago. I called them and begged them to check if there was room for Taylor. There was and we packed up and moved from Ohio to Kentucky just so she could attend EasterSeals Redwood.

No matter what medical issue Taylor presented the nurses and staff at Easterseals Redwood said "No Problem". I knew they could handle anything and I knew Taylor was safe there. I finally knew what peace of mind was.

Taylor thrived at EasterSeals Redwood and I know everyone there loved her. In fact, when she died, we held a celebration of life for her and the staff came and presented me with this picture signed by them.

In closing, I lived in Ohio my entire life - my husband and I met at Greenhills High School. But when we became parents, I had to move to KY to get the care our daughter needed. The time has passed for Taylor to use PPEC, but I am here, nearly 39 years later, to ask you to ensure other Ohio families don't have to make the difficult choice that my family did, that we have access to the same services as families in Kentucky. Thank you.