

We, Mark A. Axmacher & Karen S. Axmacher – Dad, Mom and legal guardians of Amy M. Axmacher, wholeheartedly support HB 770.

Our 39-year-old daughter Amy lives at Brookside Extended Care in Mason Ohio (an ICF) and needs us to hug her and show that we love her. We have not been able to do this since March of this year due to COVID-19 and she is not capable of understanding why. Our Amy has Rett Syndrome. Rett syndrome is a rare genetic neurological disorder that occurs primarily in girls and more rarely in boys. Rett syndrome leads to severe impairments, affecting nearly every aspect of the child's life. Amy functions about at the level of an 18-month-old.

Amy receives great personal and medical care at Brookside – she has skilled nursing care 24-7 -- and before COVID was able to interact with us and the other residents. This may not sound like much, but believe me, this is Huge. Amy used to get to socialize / interact with her Friends (the other residents) as well as having her mother and I visit her once or twice a week where we would read to her and some of her friends who would sit with her and everyone would laugh and share smiles with each other. Amy recognizes and smiles at her roommates. One friend at Brookside, who is blind, shared her bracelet with Amy when they were sitting next to each other. This is Remarkable.

None of this has been possible since COVID and as a result Amy has lost weight and we believe become depressed. We as her parents and legal guardians would take every precaution so as not to carry or spread COVID if one of us can become the “essential caregiver” because it is essential to Amy's health and well-being that she has her mommy to trim her fingernails, brush her hair and kiss her forehead.

Being loved on is an essential part of life and Amy needs this!

Most Sincerely,
Mark A. and Karen S. Axmacher
Dad, Mom and Legal Guardians of Amy
513-292-1836