

Dave Mazzei
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce
3/22/23

My son's needs have not been met in this community for almost three years now. I have not been able to find a facility that will support his needs since Covid.

"JJ" is 33 is diagnosed with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex seizures have never been controlled; ne-to-two seizures a day is a good day. Due to all the seizure activity, he functions cognitively at around age one with very limited verbal skills.

Since Covid interrupted everyone's lives, he has remained home. He needs the stimulation that can be provided at a day center. I understand the legislators' thinking. The legislation allows for adults with developmental disabilities to be more engaged in communities. Unfortunately, this legislation has left my son in limbo. This legislation may be good for most with a developmental disability, but it's hurting adults like my son who are not capable of engaging in communities at the level that would be required. There needs to be a fix for these individuals. The community deserves to know that some adults with developmental disabilities are not being served.

I currently contact multiple facilities within a half hour or so every few months to see if there are any changes so JJ would be able to attend. One facility, in March of 2022, told me that all they had to do was hire one person and he would be able to attend. That was nine months ago now. Is my son challenging for a facility to take on? Yes. But does he deserve the services to live a full, happy, interactive and stimulating life. An even bigger YES.

I don't have the answers to this situation. Most community members are probably not aware of this situation. Thus, I'm reaching out. There has to be a way for my son, and others like him, to be able to live a fulfilling life.

UPDATE: Just signed an updated ISP for Jared to attend a local day program; he starts Monday the 20th.