

Hello,

Our son is a wonderful thirteen-year-old boy with cerebral palsy. He is completely non-verbal, and has significant developmental delays both physical and mental. Thanks to nearly thirteen years of weekly speech, occupational, and physical therapy, he has progressed from a baby who had to be taught how to crawl to a teenager who plays soccer, has learned how to read and spell more than 100 words in the last two years, and successfully uses an iPad app to speak.

Had it not been for the weekly therapy sessions and the home programs those therapists set up for us to work with him, there is absolutely no way our son would have accomplished even a fraction of what he can do today. Thanks to those weekly therapy sessions, he has a very good chance of living fairly independently and holding a typical job as an adult. Those weekly therapy sessions are what the Medicaid Katie Beckett program has accomplished for our son.

We realize that Nevada continues to be in a budget crunch. We also realize that tough decisions have to be made that can and will take away some benefits for those who truly need it. We would like to respectfully ask that you continue to allow the Katie Beckett program to provide these invaluable therapy sessions for children who need them. Therapy includes speech, occupational, and physical therapy and not one of those can be singled out as nonessential. For our son, the most vital therapy is speech therapy—he will never be able to speak, but his therapist has spent years working with him to allow him to communicate through assistive technology devices. And he can! And he continues to improve in amazing ways every week—including learning to spell!

Please—if any benefits have to be taken away from children with special needs, please just reduce the number of visits allowed per year. Please do not take away a certain category of therapy, because every child's needs are different and every child deserves the chance to improve and be as independent as possible.

We appreciate your consideration,

L. & B. P.
Sparks NV