

Dear Mr. Plain,

My name is Pam Berek and I am a Reno resident. I am the mother of a wonderful, 10 year old son who was born with cerebral palsy and a severe form of epilepsy. My son has made a lot of progress over the past 9 1/2 years in Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Vision Therapy and Occupational Therapy. But as with many disabilities, progress is slow and we will need to continue therapy into adulthood. As a parent, my hope for my son is that someday, in his future, he will become a productive member of society and be able to hold a job, live independently, have a family, and pay taxes just like the rest of us. With continued therapy we are sure he will be able to meet our expectations and even surpass them. I never want him to be a burden of society, if at all possible.

Last night I attended a meeting put on by the Nevada Department of Business and Industry Division of Insurance. I was very upset to learn that of the ten choices that are being proposed by the state Essential Health Benefits, none of these choices included habilitation therapy for our children, as of yet. I am afraid that these plans discriminate against age, level of disability, type of disability, and the type of therapy needed. Especially since only Autism was included. We need a choice that includes a comprehensive plan for all therapies that our children need. I feel that all 10 of the plans that you are looking at need to be redesigned to include these things. Then go back and choose the correct plan. I have been told that the Federal Government is the one that is dragging their feet in this matter. I just want to make sure my voice is heard. Please don't overlook our children! Any of our children.

I am aware of the common benchmark deficiencies in the plan such as the above stated Habilitative Care, Pediatric Oral, Pediatric Vision & Prescription Drugs. I was under the understanding that the decision regarding which of the 10 plans will be accepted will be made on this Monday. When will the deficiencies be addressed? I

don't want them to be overlooked in any way. Please, again, do not discriminated and only address Autism. There are MANY other disabilities that need services just as badly.

I am a very involved parent in my son's life and will do what ever it takes to get him the services that he needs to allow him to live his life to his full potential. Please keep me included in these discussions in the future. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you, in advance, for your understanding regarding this very critical matter.

Sincerely,
Pam Berek