

Re: HB 2601

February 10, 2020

Dear Education Committee Members;

My name is Vickie, in March of 2019 my 20 year old grandson, I'll call T, was diagnosed with high functioning ASD (autism spectrum disorder). From my research, it is more and more common for a diagnosis at this age.

Due to T's ability to high function, his diagnosis was missed by doctors, therapist, teachers, mentors, tutors, more therapist and family. What I always considered as his "uniqueness or specialness" is that he's very shy, compliant, intelligent, gentle, remarkably observant, very focused, highly sensitive, has great hand eye coordination and athletically inclined. This is all still true today. Additionally, he looks normal - You would not see anything wrong with him. High function ASD does not have a look.

In Tom Boyce's book, The Orchid and the Dandelion he explores the "dandelion" child (hardy, resilient, healthy), able to survive and flourish and the "orchid" child (sensitive, susceptible, fragile), who needs the right support and special care to survive. I am proud to say my grandson is an orchid but in his case with a life long struggle.

After his 2019 diagnosis, it all makes sense but in 1999 we missed all the signs and so did the medical world. Did T's ability to roll over suddenly stop after receiving one of his vaccines or did he just decide not to? Was his speech delayed because he didn't want to talk or was it as a result of the dangerous adjuvants in a vaccine? Did he not walk until 19 months because he was lazy or was his development delayed due to the aluminum and/or mercury (thimerisol) in the vaccines in 1998-99? Has his life long struggle to be like the other kids just been his personality or was his brain injured from the neurotoxins in these vaccines?

T started school early b/c his birthdate allowed him to start. In first grade my daughter realized T was not as emotionally developed as his class mates. She was a hands-on mom and volunteered at his school. She fought the school system to hold him back even although they didn't want to. They did. This was a huge boost for T. He was able to maintain, grow and succeed through elementary school with above average grades and friends. Routine is critical to the ASD child/adult.

Middle school (2013) is where he began to fall behind. (After researching, ASD, routine and regiment are critical.) We all know it's hard for kids in middle school but a high functioning ASD child will certain struggle and he did. In middle school we hired tutors, mentors, therapist to help him. But T's self esteem tanked and so did his grades. We (heartbreakingly) sent him to a therapeutic boarding school. He did turn it all around where he finished his junior and senior years in 11 months with all A's and B's.

2014 was the beginning of our financial nightmare as well as when our HEARTS began to ache which will last forever...As of now our out of pocket expenses are over \$250,000. None of this is covered by insurance. And, we are not done! This is going to be a life long struggle for him and financial drain on us. Now that he is 21 he/ we face a whole new set of issues and expenses.

I am writing because I believe it should be a basic human right that I/we decide what we put into our bodies and our children's bodies. The damage that can be traced back to 1999 is now very clear. What these toxic vaccines did to us and many other families is criminal.

How do we protect our children, our grandchildren, ourselves from the scientifically proven dangers in the current mandated vaccines full of toxins? These proven unsafe ingredients can and do cause life long health issues for our children. In our case and so many others also an extreme financial burden. Please consider Health Freedoms for all of us.

Thank you,

Vickie Vetter-Scruggs
Paola, KS