



Washington State Legislature

July 27th, 2026

The Honorable Bob Ferguson

Governor, State of Washington

Secretary Angela Ramirez

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Dear Governor Ferguson and Secretary Ramirez,

We are writing to respectfully urge you to preserve funding for Washington's Parent to Parent (P2P) program as the Department of Social and Health Services reviews contracts for renewal.

We understand DSHS is undertaking a broad review of contracts in response to budget guidance and that no final decision has been made regarding the Parent to Parent contract. We appreciate the difficult responsibility of ensuring taxpayer dollars are used wisely, particularly as the state faces ongoing fiscal challenges. However, we believe the Parent to Parent program represents exactly the kind of investment government should protect.

Parent to Parent provides something that government alone cannot easily replicate: experienced parents helping other parents navigate the often overwhelming journey of raising a child with developmental disabilities or special health care needs. Families receive guidance, emotional support, connections to community resources, and practical assistance from people who have walked the same path themselves.

As legislators representing parents of children who have received special education services, we understand that navigating these systems can be confusing, stressful, and isolating. Many of us are family and friends of, and advocates for the DD community, who share these concerns about the effort to eliminate this essential service. Programs like Parent to Parent



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help families become stronger advocates for their children while reducing unnecessary frustration and helping connect them with the services they need.

Washington has long recognized that one of government's highest responsibilities is protecting and supporting our most vulnerable citizens. Children with developmental disabilities and their families deserve our attention, compassion, and partnership. The Parent to Parent program embodies those values by strengthening families before they reach a point of crisis.

While budget reviews are necessary, we encourage DSHS to consider not only the cost of this contract, but also its value. Investments that empower families, improve access to existing services, and provide peer support can prevent more costly interventions later while improving outcomes for children and caregivers alike.

We respectfully ask that the Parent to Parent contract be renewed and that this important program continue serving families across Washington.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the people of our state.

Sincerely,

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Rep. Travis Couture
35th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew Stokesbary".

Rep. Drew Stokesbary
House Republican Leader
31st Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Corry".

Rep. Chris Corry
Deputy House Republican Leader
15th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Schmidt".

Rep. Suzanne Schmidt
4th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mari Leavitt".

Rep. Mari Leavitt
28th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Nance".

Rep. Greg Nance
23rd Legislative District



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Rep. Josh Penner
31st Legislative District

Rep. Addison Richards
26th Legislative District

Rep. Brian Burnett
12th Legislative District

Rep. Alex Ybarra
13th Legislative District

Sen. Keith Goehner
12th Legislative District

Rep. Michael Keaton
25th Legislative District

Rep. Roger Goodman
45th Legislative District

Rep. Darya Farivar
46th Legislative District

Sen. Keith Wagoner
39th Legislative District

Rep. David Stuebe
17th Legislative District

Sen. Shelly Short
7th Legislative District

Rep. Skyler Rude
16th Legislative District

Sen. Yasmin Trudeau
27th Legislative District

Rep. Gloria Mendoza
14th Legislative District

Rep. Sam Low
39th Legislative District

Rep. Jamila Taylor
30th Legislative District

Rep. Brianna Thomas
34th Legislative District

Rep. Kevin Waters
17th Legislative District

Sen. Phil Fortunato
31st Legislative District

Sen. Leonard Christian
4th Legislative District

Rep. Stephanie Barnard
8th Legislative District

Rep. Cyndy Jacobsen
25th Legislative District

Sen. Mark Schoesler
9th Legislative District

Rep. Gerry Pollet
46th Legislative District



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Sen. Perry Dozier
16th Legislative District

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Rep. Mary Dye
9th Legislative District

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Sen. Nikki Torres
15th Legislative District

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Sen. Curtis King
14th Legislative District

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Sen. Jeff Wilson
19th Legislative District

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Rep. Lisa Parshley
22nd Legislative District

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Rep. Joe Schmick
9th Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Mark Klicker in black ink.

Rep. Mark Klicker
16th Legislative District

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Sen. Claire Wilson
30th Legislative District

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Rep. Shelley Kloba
1st Legislative District

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Rep. Mike Steele
12th Legislative District

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Rep. Alicia Rule
42nd Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Jim Walsh in black ink.

Rep. Jim Walsh
19th Legislative District

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Rep. Lisa Callan
5th Legislative District