



Pay Parent-Caregivers of Children with Disabilities

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Who is working on this issue?

Washington for All Families Coalition;
Parents Empowering Parents (PEP);
Washington Statewide Parent Coalitions;
The Arc of King County;
Open Doors for Multicultural Families

Advocacy areas

Caregiving; civil rights; community
services/supports; early learning or 0-5
supports; economic stability; family support;
health care; women's issues

What is the problem you are trying to solve?

- Our rules on who can be a paid parent provider for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are inequitable, discriminatory, and harmful to families across our state.

The state of Washington permits parent-caregivers of adult children with developmental disabilities over the age of 18 to be paid for the support and personal care they provide.

The state does not extend this same option to parents of children with developmental disabilities under the age of 18, despite caregivers filling the same role and providing the same care as their caregiving counterparts whose children happen to have reached the age of majority.

The only differentiating factor between such caregivers is the chronological age of the care recipient.



What is your proposed solution?

- Change the law to allow all parent-caregivers of minors to be paid for the value of their work.

Families should have the right to choose how to best utilize their child's allotted paid personal care hours and should be supported by legislative action whether they opt to hire a professional caregiver or choose to fill paid hours themselves. Any parent-caregiver of a child who is a DDA client with allotted personal care hours should have this right to choose how best to ensure their child's care, support, and overall wellbeing.



Why is this a good solution?

There will never be enough non-family caregivers to meet current and future care needs. This issue especially affects:

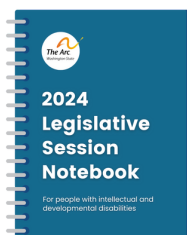
- Families from diverse backgrounds – who often do not have access to paid caregivers who are culturally competent or capable of communicating in their preferred language.
- Families of children most significantly impacted by their disabilities.

The lion's share of care giving of children with disabilities and high support needs will always fall back on the family, most often the mother or another female family member, thereby significantly limiting their ability to work outside the home, to work for pay, and to support themselves, any other child in the home, and any other family member who relies on their financial support.

The state has already decided that it makes sense to compensate parent-caregivers of adult children for their care work and labor; yet, under current policy prohibiting compensation to parent-caregivers of children under age 18, signals to younger parents that they alone are undeserving of payment for the services they perform.

It is a good solution to correct this inequity because current policy sets up and continuously reinforces a system of discrimination based solely on age.

What is the fiscal impact?	Is there a bill number?	Is there a legislator working on this issue?
This will cost the state exactly as much money as they should be paying if families were able to utilize the personal care hours already allotted.	<u>HB 2184</u>	Rep. Jamila Taylor, 30th LD, <u>jamila.taylor@leg.wa.gov</u>



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