

From: [Cortney Brummond](#)
To: [CRAY Jon W](#)
Subject: Waiver Request F.S.
Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:39:57 PM

To Mr. Jon Cray,

In response to my application denial through the Oregon Public Utility Commission, I'm writing to you to formally request a waiver, on behalf of my client, Fitz Stender (age 3), in regards to the age requirement established by the commission.

The Stender family was unable to obtain a speech generating device (SGD) through insurance; thus, as last resort, I applied to your program. As a newcomer to Oregon, I was hopeful and excited to discover TDAP, as the midwestern states I came from do not have such progressive philosophies that support individuals in overcoming costs in order to communicate meaningfully and effectively.

I have been in the field of speech language pathology for 12-years and have worked with several children requiring SGD; however, I have yet to encounter a child as motivated and eager to learn and grow as little Fitz. Fitz demonstrates a strong persistence and willingness to be understood. He is extremely intelligent and relies on his problem solving skills to help others understand him. For all his eagerness, he does not have a reliable means to express himself; thus, his attempts are often unfulfilled. He has [REDACTED] of speech and is at a critical point in his development where he is ready to expand on his vocabulary, sharing his knowledge and ideas with his family. Currently, he is blossoming in expanding his understanding of the world, but, without access to a SGD for an additional year, the impacts will likely be detrimental on his expressive and social language outcomes.

Fitz is at a vital time in his development as an emerging communicator. Although he is young, he could learn to use the telephone to connect with his family members with access to an SGD. At this time, he cannot visit his grandparents, as they do not have any way of understanding his speech, which is limited to a few consonants and vowels. If he had access to an SGD, Fitz would be able to call them on the telephone, no doubt, sharing his excitement that he will be over to visit. The SGD will truly open his world.

The [REDACTED] will likely take years of intense therapeutic intervention and a device will likely be the bridge necessary to gain meaningful communication skills, in which he can meet his basic needs, wants, safety, and engage socially with family and friends. I implore you to make an exception to your age requirements so that Fitz has a reliable mode to effectively communicate during these most critical years of his development.

Respectfully,

Cortney Brummond

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