

Dear Chairperson [REDACTED],

My name is [REDACTED] and I've been a parent trainer and advocate for over 15 years. My dream of teaching science faded when my son's behaviors forced me to stay home for the next 10 years. Behavioral services, both insufficient and inadequate, helped create additional challenges throughout my son's school years. Ever increasing self-injurious behaviors culminated in his removal from high school and my efforts to develop an individualized **positive behavior support plan** for the home and community. Without, these supports, my son would never have developed some of the skills he now has, such as, shopping independently, volunteering, and eating in restaurants. He still has behavioral challenges that necessitate intervention and our family lives the "**positive behavior support way**". My son is now 27 years old, doesn't have a job, lives at home and will need support for the remainder of his life. I sincerely hope that the service providers who will help him in the future will use the **positive behavior support** approach. How my son is treated will determine if he succeeds or fails in life!

I came out of retirement to work part-time for the **Positive Behavior Support** – NV project because I believe its principles can change lives. I experienced first-hand how challenging behaviors can be reduced or eliminated just by understanding the environment and individual needs. It can be hard work, but the rewards are worth it! It is my passion to help families find a better way to address challenging behaviors so that they can avoid my terrible experiences. **Positive behavior supports** also helps to understand typically developing children, adults with challenging behaviors and change attitudes toward behavior. My only wish is that I could have been introduced to **positive behavior supports** when my child was born!

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