

JOINT
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
AND
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
Friday, February 12, 2016

ATTACHMENT 6

02/12/16

Kathleen Zielinski

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Habilitative Support Staff

My name is Kathleen Zielinski,

I am a Habilitative Support Staff at a Developmental Disability Agency here in Idaho.

I am also a Grandmother representing my adoptive granddaughter, a child who came from Idaho's Foster Care system, due to neglect and abuse. She now has significant mental health disorders.

I work with and see children everyday with duo diagnosis of Developmental Disability and Mental Health diagnosis.

I am here to ask, **Why**.

Over the last year our children have been dealing with significant reduction in their Mental Health Services.

Along with this reduction in services comes regression and rage in the home, school and in the community.

It is because of this reduction in services that I see more anxiety, depression, self-harm, physical aggression, suicidal tendencies, trauma behaviors and the lack of social & emotional skills.

I want to see changes and improvements made in our Behavioral Health Managed Care System, Optum of Idaho.

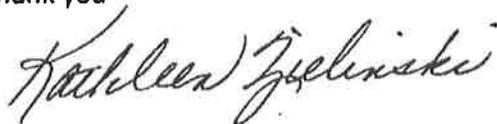
I want to see an array of treatment services specifically designed for our children with Mental Health Disorders.

These children deserve more services and we can become a team working together to insure that we do the right thing by them. We are their voices.

Do not, Optum of Idaho, leave these children to sink in the sea of circumstances.

Do not leave them behind and forgotten.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Zielinski".