

Hi my name is Sharon Duckett I am the disabled mother of special need twins Christian and Christina both intellectual disabilities and autism that will be graduating June of 2016. I am here today to share what I and thousands of other parents face with young adults trying to transition out high school adult life. Graduating is usually a time of great joy and promise the future is awaiting and now you can pursue all your dreams....but for the special needs young adult it is a life on hold, a waiting game and many are still waiting It is a tragedy that does not have to happen ...I received a letter stating both twins were eligible for waiver services but at this time there is no funding...my heart felt like it stop and tears began to flow I...could not breathe now ...no funding how can my twins put their daily lives on hold they will surely lose all the skills they work so hard to achieve . . .waiver services provide supports to help live in the community and stay at home the only life they know no funding they will both lose the internships one works at Marshall's the other at the Library they can not continue without support their lives will be interrupted waiting will destroy them they will lose hope and their dream to live an everyday life in their community like you and I .The waiting list how many years will they be waiting? They will be the thousands of others who are still waiting who lose their skills the supports they need daily to talk, walk, go to work ,go to the library, get out of bed. We are just like you are, we have lives but we need services and supports to live. I cannot breathe why must we wait to live our lives as productive human beings on this earth? Why ? Must children also wait and for how long will we be waiting to exhale? I ask today that you find more funding for The waiting list campaign so our young adults can breathe, live their dreams, reach for the stars like we have promised them their entire lives. WHY must they live a dream deferred ? Please find more funding so that our young adults can transition into life not death...of their dreams Thank you