

My name is Joey and I live in Falls Church, Virginia with my mom and dad. I have autism and I don't use words to communicate, but I can still tell you a lot! I'm a happy person who loves school.

I have always been eligible for a DD Waiver, but I'm on a very long waiting list. I've already waited for several years. When I was younger, I was able to use an EDCD Waiver. It has a smaller list of services and it wasn't everything I needed, but it gave my family some help. Then, we all moved to Arizona for about a year from 2011 to 2012.

When we returned to Virginia in 2012, I reapplied for the EDCD Waiver and was denied. My family was told I was no longer eligible even though I had the exact same needs as I did when I had the waiver before. I was told the eligibility criteria had changed.

Right now, I'm working hard at school and my parents give me a lot of help. They've worked with my insurance company to get me Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Therapy that helps me learn, focus, and develop. However, life would be much better if we had a DD Waiver.

I'd like to use my DD Waiver for a case manager so my parents didn't have to navigate everything alone. I'd also like to look at a communication device so I could "speak" to others more easily. With the DD Waiver, a care attendant could help me after school with my homework and things like getting cleaned up and fed. For now, my parents will have to keep doing all of this alone.

I would like you to remember that each of the more than 10,000 people on the Waiting List have a story and need your help.

You can change my future! Please fund the waiting list for ID and DD Waivers AND SUPPORT WAIVER REFORM! End the wait, start a life.

