

My name is Paloma and I am seven years old. I live in Reston and I have been here my whole life. I have autism and tuberous sclerosis which causes me to have seizures. I live with my dad and go to Fairfax County Public Schools in a classroom focused on Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy. I think school is a lot of fun.

I love music and horseback riding and recently started horseback riding therapy! I have a speech therapist who helps me learn to communicate and an occupational therapist who helps me with my fine motor skills. I have to squeeze them into my busy schedule because I also ice skate, swim, and am learning to read! I love Disney characters, too. As you may have guessed, I have a lot of energy!

Sometimes my energy bubbles over. I have kicked through walls, a car window, and sometimes I injure myself. It is really important for me to have behavior therapy at school and to have people who can help me stay safe.



Right now I'm on the long waiting list for an ID Waiver. I've waited a few years and know it may be any more years before we get what we need. In the meantime, I use an EDCD Waiver that provides a little bit of attendant care so I can get some help at home. My dad has to travel for work sometimes and we don't have enough care hours to have someone come that whole time, so my grandma usually comes to stay with me.

My family dreams of a day when I can get my ID Waiver. I could use my case manager to help my family find all the resources I need. Right now my dad is my advocate, my personal chef (I use a special diet), my nurse, my behavior therapist, my friend, and my dad. That is a lot of jobs and we could really use some help.

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, too.

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.

