

March 3rd 2020

Public Health - Care of Medically Fragile Individuals Supporting Channings Law
SB 0733

Dear Senators Lam Carter Hayes Patterson Young

My name is Melissa Webb. I am a Member of the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative Patient and Family committee.

Thank you Legislators for allowing me to share my story in support of Mrs. Mia Matthews of the bill Care of Medically Fragile Individuals Channings Law Senate Bill 0733

I would like to speak from my own personal experience of going through a tracheotomy the summer of 2005, Mayo Clinic in Rochester Minnesota,

At the time from living in Wisconsin

From having a previous illness at 18 months old my parents noticed at the age of 6 years old there was a cyst growing on my neck my father said to my mother okay that is it we are not getting answers by these doctors in Wisconsin we need to get real answers. My father then went online found Mayo Clinic of Rochester Minnesota then told my mother start packing we are all going to Mayo Clinic.

After many visits to the clinic area in Mayo

I went under surgery for 10 hours to have the removal of the cyst on my neck then when i was awake i found that a plain white trach with a red cap became a extra voice box it made my voice very raspy had been put in while being hooked up to 6 machines including a feeding tube for 16 days a few days before i was able to go home i was able to go off of the feeding tube then began eating normally again the doctors came in told my parents that i am all good i don't need to have a home health nurse or go home with any machines. Hearing that news has been a huge miracle for us
I was very fortunate to receive the best care a 6 year old girl could have.

After having a experience of a tracheotomy i wasn't sure what my true identity was going to be for a long time thought a tracheotomy defined who i was because after going through something big you never know if you will be the same again as i got older i learned to accept that a tracheotomy happened with the support of my family and friends i found my true self being in my early 20's now i have learned children at any age could through a tracheotomy want to give support to as much children and the families to stand by them to show they are now alone today I'm here to show support of

a sweet little girls story Channing Matthews a little one that should have been here with us all today.

No child should ever be at risk while seeking care for any condition especially in there own home

The nurses and equipment need to be the best there is no room to risk a life of a child especially when there are mild to serious cases.

Children who are medically fragile individuals need the honesty and compassion on getting the care and all around support the nurse can give because going through a tracheotomy or someone who will live with one is hard enough nurses need to be on top of things.

A proper training program and stricter skills test for nurses is very much needed before caring for a child with a complex medical condition. No child should be hurt more or have their life risk just because of improper training. My personal opinion is that things need to change this is children we are all standing up for.

Sincerely
Melissa Webb