



***Jonathan Robert Bordelon – age 4***

My name is Maureen Brice Bordelon. I am a wife and mother of three beautiful children. I have been a working professional for 16 years in the world of banking, publishing, sales and e-commerce. I have been a Senior Vice President of a multi-million dollar company and have managed teams of people. I have considered my Professional Experience expansive and educated.

Four years ago I was told by our pediatrician that our youngest son showed signs of Autism. When I asked him what I should do next, he looked at me and said, "You need to go to a different doctor- GOOD LUCK".

**This is where my Professional career was put aside in order to focus on Jonathan's special needs and find the correct educational approaches for Autism.**

Jonathan is now 4 ½ years old, autistic, non-verbal and in a 3 year timeframe, I have become:

- A Biomedical Researcher
- A Speech therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Sensory Innogration therapist
- Immunologist
- Dietician
- Supplement Expert
- Child Development Expert
- Behavior Analysis Expert

However, you will not find any formal diplomas on my wall because I have accomplished these expertises through the trials and tribulations of raising our autistic child.

You can never truly understand the needs or best educational techniques of an autistic child unless you are raising one 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Parents are in tune with their Autistic children.**

Our tax dollars funding the special education system are not channeled to the needs of our child with regard of educational approaches that are based on sound and current research. He has been part of the Public school system for almost two years and the program available to us has failed him.

It is proven, in our son's case that intense one-on-one instruction is the answer to early intervention and a way out of the "fog" of Autism. We have proven this by implementing additional educational techniques **NOT AVAILABLE** in his Public Preschool program.

We have learned that there is no ONE teaching method for Autism, so we have approached treating our son with "out-of-the box" techniques such as Sensory Integration, Listening Therapy, Applied Behavior Analysis and Chelation in tandem with Traditional Therapies such as Speech and Occupational. Autism is an "out-of-the-box" disease. I truly believe that the Educational Committee for the state of Texas needs to get out of its box of limited approaches and aggressively implement the treatments proven to help our Autistic children NOW!


I also know as a parent, that we will embrace any help given to us by the state of Texas from the Education Committee, but the Committee needs to understand the current status of the children and what better resources to act upon then the parents raising these precious, complicated, unique children.

I urge this committee to include the voices and votes of the parents that are educated and experienced in Autism, so that the education dollars sourced from taxpayers and voters will fund the **CORRECT** education methods to teach at the highest potential to change the course of the Autism epidemic.

I believe that Senate Bill 124 will formulate a committee balanced with 50% professionals and 50% parents together deciding on Autism Education for the state of Texas.

I would like to finish my testimony by stating that unlike professionals that have chosen the arena of autism, Parents and their children did not have that choice. This is a disease that has come with malice, pain, confusion, hidden blessings, love, and unmeasured possibilities. Please do not disregard a parent's experience and knowledge of this disease. As a parent, we will continue our devotion of implementing every current and possible education resource to make a better life for our son.

Thank you,



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