

# I support Oklahomans with disabilities



My name is Alyssa. I am 30 years old. I have Phelan McDermid Syndrome.

Last fall I was called off the In-Home Supports Waiver Wait List after 12 ½ years.

I'm very grateful, as are my parents, to finally be able to be making strides in my quest to be an active and contributing member of my community. See, ever since I graduated out of the public-school system, there hasn't been much for me to be a part of. My parents both work. My Mom was fortunate to find a job working primarily from home. I had a caregiver for the times Mom had to attend meetings, but they couldn't afford much else in the way of someone to help me. I can't really handle being in a day/work program full time, so my options were very limited. Its been really hard. A lot of the stuff I was able to learn to do in school I have lost. I've gotten kinda depressed and cranky not having any outlets for activity.

Now that I'm receiving the waiver, my future looks much brighter! Mom can hire a Habilitation Training Specialist to take me out regularly. I can attend some programs periodically to interact with my peers. We can develop and plan job opportunities that will insure my success. I will be able to be a productive member of my community.

But I worry for a lot of my friends still on the Wait List. There are over 5000 individuals with disabilities still waiting up to almost THIRTEEN YEARS!

I have a few friends that were forced to go live in an Intermediate Care Facility because their parent had no choice. They couldn't be left at home alone while their parent worked, and they certainly couldn't provide the very high cost of a caregiver for special needs. Now the state is instead shelling out 3-4 times as much for that facility, and they can't live at home. That doesn't make sense to me.

I hope, when you do your work this session, you'll keep me and my friends in mind. I hope you'll see it's a smart move to approve the appropriation for the Wait List.

Thanks for listening,



Alyssa Wilson