

Thursday, April 5th, 2018

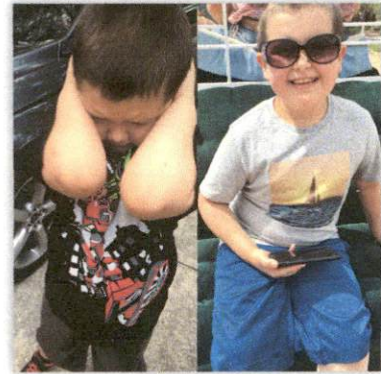
Testimony to Health, Insurance, & Finance Committee

Reference: Support for HB18-1263

## Cannabis saved my son's life—and mine, too.

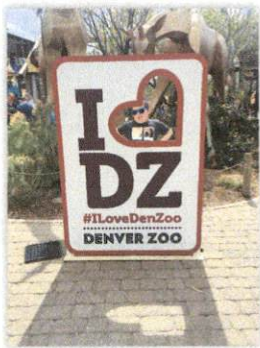
Vincent is my ten-year-old son who is loving, adventurous, and has a contagious laugh that engulfs a room. Vincent also has severe autism (Level 3) and intractable epileptic encephalopathy. He has been prescribed several pharmaceutical medications, including an antidepressant, anti-epileptic drugs, and anti-anxiety medication, all to no avail. His autism presents itself in extremely limited verbal communication, motor difficulties, Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD), Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Oppositional Defiance Disorder (ODD), Intellectual Disability Disorder (IDD, formerly known as Mental Retardation), problems processing his emotions, and severe aggression.

When I say severe aggression please don't take that statement lightly. Vincent physically attacked me several times a day, before he had access to medical cannabis. He slapped, punched, kicked, scratched, bit, pulled my hair, and even choked me. I know that my son loves me because he hugs me, wipes away my tears when I cry, and saves the last bite of every meal just for me. He could not control these outbursts. Aggression is a common comorbidity of autism that many outside the autism community do not know about as many families are essentially trapped inside their homes.



*Vincent before & after medical cannabis*

Fourteen months ago, my family moved from Texas to Colorado and medical cannabis saved our lives. Since moving to Colorado, Vincent is now seizure-free for the first time in his life. **As of today, he has not had a meltdown or attacked me in over a month.** My happy, sweet boy has returned. He no longer physically attacks me and pulls my hair but instead holds my hand and gives me a hug before bedtime. He has developed new spontaneous speech that we did not see before utilizing medical cannabis. He speaks entire sentences that are appropriate and self-taught. He has also taught himself how to read advanced sentences and has easily doubled his vocabulary. He is comfortable, engaged, and present. My son shows self-control, empathy, and an interest in connecting with us we never saw before access to medical cannabis. We're not prisoners in our home anymore and go to the zoo, the playground, and out into the community as a family.



Medical cannabis has made my son's quality of life exponentially better. **My son is no longer simply surviving, but is now thriving.** You have the ability to change the lives of thousands of Coloradans by voting in favor of this bill. As a mother who continues to stop at nothing to help her child, it is crucial that we give other autistic individuals and children with autism the same chance at life that my son has. Every child deserves a chance, and medical cannabis can provide that chance to our children.

Please vote in favor of HB18-1263.

## Please help the autistic children of Colorado.

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# Carbide saved my son's life

My son, a young child, was suffering from a severe respiratory condition. The doctors were unable to help him, and he was in a critical state. I was desperate and had heard about Carbide. I bought a small amount and used it as directed. To my surprise, the child's condition improved rapidly, and he was able to breathe again. I am grateful to Carbide for saving my son's life.



Carbide is a powerful and effective medicine. It has helped many people who were in a state of despair. I have recommended it to my friends and family, and they have all benefited from it. It is a true lifesaver.

I have used Carbide for several years now, and it has always worked for me. It is a reliable and safe medicine. I am confident that it will continue to help many more people in the future.



Carbide is available in many forms, including tablets, capsules, and liquid. It is easy to use and does not have any side effects. It is a true miracle drug.

## These help the autistic children of Chicago

These children are suffering from a severe mental condition. They are unable to communicate and are often aggressive. The doctors have tried everything, but nothing has worked. I have heard about Carbide and decided to try it. The results have been amazing. The children are now able to communicate and are no longer aggressive. I am grateful to Carbide for helping these children.