

## House Bill 18-1263 Health, Insurance, &amp; Finance Committee Testimony of Scott Walker

Madam Chair Ginal, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Scott Walker, I am representing my 10-year-old son Vincent and the other autistic children of Colorado, and I am here to support House Bill 18-1263.

I come before you today as a conservative republican and a military veteran with more than 20 years of service in the U.S. Air Force. My experience with autism up until a few years ago was zero. I never came in contact with autistic children, I didn't think about autistic children, they were just never on my radar. I honestly knew very little about autism.

When I met my wife, she told me she had an autistic son. I really didn't give much thought to how my life would change. During that time, I saw a side of him that where he would become aggressive, angry, and upset for no reason. He would hit and kick my wife and I. It was a difficult and challenging time for us and we worried about his future. We worried about our future. What would he be like in 5 or 10 or 15 years. Autism never goes away and it significantly affects our son.

Vincent has been using medical cannabis for a year now and the changes that I've witnessed in him have been nothing short of incredible. He went from being suddenly aggressive and angry to loving and happy. His verbal skills went from one and two words, such as "eat" and "yes" or "no", to his using sentences like "dad, I'm hungry", "I love you", and "there's no more school on Saturday."

What I've witnessed was an awakening of the smart, intelligent little boy trapped by autism, one who wanted to desperately to communicate with us, and medical cannabis gave him his voice. It's enabled him to show us so much more of who he really is.

I'm here today for Vincent, but I'm also here for the autistic children who don't qualify for medical cannabis under other conditions. They deserve a shot at living a life worth living. I've spoken with medical professionals, clergy, teachers, and parents who all agree that we need medical freedom to make our children's lives better whenever possible.

I respectfully ask each of you to vote yes on House Bill 18-1263 to give the parents of autistic children a safe, natural, and effective medicine that will change their children's lives forever. Thank you.

Scott Walker  
7443 E. Long Ave. Centennial, CO 80112  
House District 37

scott.walker.6482@gmail.com  
(210) 415-7882