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Mother becomes active voice for families with disabled kids

MARIA CHERCOLES

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Denise Rosenbluth is the mother of Danielle, a 27-year-old with developmental disabilities who needs 24-hour assistance.

Recently, Rosenbluth appealed a state legislation that would reduce the hours of assistance her daughter receives from 24 to six. She is waiting for a hearing.

But this is not the first time Rosenbluth has spoken up against a reduction in health services she receives. Since her daughter was born, Rosenbluth has been an active voice in the community, contacting legislators whenever they are reviewing a legislation that would affect the services her and other families with disabled children receive.

The mother of two more children, ages 9 and 12, Rosenbluth has also been an active speaker at fundraising events organized by the Achievement and Rehabilitation Center of Broward in Sunrise, where her daughter spends most of her days.

Can you explain how this new legislation is affecting you?

They are trying to put all the children with disabilities into a tier program. The only thing keeping my daughter from the top tier and from receiving all the assistance she needs is that she doesn't need to be lifted into a wheelchair. Instead, she was put into the third tier, which would give her six hours of assistance instead of 24.

Is it common for parents to appeal?

Everyone has the right for an appeal, but there are a lot of parents out there who don't understand their rights. The government tries to wear us down and we give up.

*How is this affecting
your relationship with
your other children?*

Parents will respond to the needs of the child with disabilities first, and then to the needs of the other children, that's how the others are affected. I was the sister of two brothers with developmental disabilities, so I know what it feels like to have a sibling with disabilities and know that it affects you as a child.

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