

Dear Mr. (MPP),

My name is Terri (*last name removed as per request*). I am from (*Toronto area*) Ontario and I am coming to you with an issue that I believe is very important and requires your special attention. Our daughter, whom is now 17 months old, was born very sick. Our daughter was born with E Coli in her blood stream, a heart murmur and had also developed a blood clot in her liver as well. She spent the first precious month of her life in (*the*) Hospital. Upon her release from the hospital, they also discovered that she had severe allergies to soy and milk and was put on a very expensive formula called Neocate.

At that time we had received coverage under Trillum using the Ontario Drug Benefit Program, which has helped us tremendously, until recently.

When she was one year of age we were able to get her tested for numerous things that she is allergic to. Her list of confirmed allergies consists of the following:

- Milk
- Soy
- Beef
- Lamb
- Turkey
- Cottonseed

The above listed allergies are the only ones that have been confirmed at this present time. We will be going back for further allergy testing once she reaches the age of two as they could not do anymore testing at that time due to her level of reaction to the above. Her allergies to the above noted are all at the Anaphylaxis level, and she could potentially die if any of the above noted things enter her system. I am currently discovering additional allergies through food, but those can not be confirmed by an allergist at this present time.

Our biggest concern right now, is being able to provide our daughter with the nutrition she requires to grow and be healthy. The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has DENIED her coverage for the Neocate simply due to the fact that it is no longer considered her "Sole Source of Nutrition". I have requested information from The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care as to what I can do at this point, and they have responded with nothing. I have also contacted the company that manufactures and produces Neocate and am currently waiting for a response. I have spoken to her Pediatrician, our General Practitioner, as well as our family allergist about these circumstances and all three of these medical professionals conclude that our daughter NEEDS to be on Neocate. We have tried other kinds of formulas available to those with sensitivities and allergies, they say they are "Hypo- Allergenic" but each one contains some form of milk or soy protein. Each time we have tried her on anything other than Neocate she has been rushed to the hospital with respiratory problems.

We are an extremely low income family and honestly are unable to afford to fund Neocate ourselves, which is the reason that ODB was such a help to us and our daughter. However, at

this point she can only consume a small array of solid foods, our daughter and our family is now being denied the coverage for the Neocate. As far as I am concerned, our daughter is being denied her right to the nutrition she requires as a toddler. Our daughter has no form of Calcium intake at this time, no form of Protein intake at this time, along with very minimal Vitamin D intake as well as unable to consume the healthy fats that a child under the age of two REQUIRES for healthy brain development without Neocate.

We are requesting your help in this matter so that our daughter is not deprived of a healthy Childhood.

At this present time we are prepared to take this matter to the media, and into the public eye due to what we feel is a disgusting lack of compassion towards children like ours, that did not and do not choose to live a lifestyle regarding illness, allergies to multiple foods and malnutrition. I am outraged that a Government would deny a child of their only acceptable source of nutrition by cutting off an 17 month old's right to grow and develop into a healthy young child. I want to prevent other families and children in the same or similar situation from having to go through anything like this due to circumstantial reasoning that they system seems to participate in.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above stated, ie: Doctors Notes, Medical Documentation etc. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail at: *(provided)* or phone *(provided)*:

We currently have a very limited supply of her formula left on hand so I am hoping to rectify this situation fast and smoothly, either through your office or another source.

I am eagerly awaiting your reply, Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Terri