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Autism petition available to sign at Shelburne Town Hall

Kelly McDowell hopes the community will help Ontario children with autism receive the intensive behavioural intervention therapy (IBI) they need to become happy and productive members of society by signing a petition against recently announced Provincial cuts that limit IBI support to children between the ages of two and four.

Kelly and her husband Julian say their five year old daughter Emily, who currently receives IBI three days a week, and waited over three years to start the therapy just this past October, will now be transitioned out.

IBI has been ?a great fit for Emily,? says her mother

?Her gains have been remarkable.?

Previous to the therapy, Emily was unable to speak, and now, in just a few months of therapy, she is speaking in sentences.

Kelly and Julian McDowell are active with the Ontario Autism Coalition, attending rallies, a recent press conference at Queen's Park; and speaking with Education Minister Liz Sandals, who they questioned how the public school system will provide appropriate services for autistic children in the near future.

The petition will be at the Shelburne Town Hall front desk for the next few weeks and can be found on line at www.change.org/p/oppose-the-new-ontario-autism-program-s-elimination-of-ibi-eligibility-for-children-over-5.

By Marni Walsh