

Mom to petition govt. for better care

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While the Acton family celebrated recently after Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnett's office helped secure an exception to the rule for Piper, Gibson is persevering in her push for change.

"I just want to do what I can so that other kids like Piper don't have to go through this," she said. "If you're palliative, you're already going through a hard enough time.

How can there be a mandate saying your child is palliative, she needs oxygen frequently, but you can only have it for 90 days? This is not a game anyone should have to play in regards to need of oxygen, especially a parent fighting for their child."

The petition to change the home oxygen therapy eligibility criteria for palliative individuals has garnered more than 1,800 signatures

so far—online and on paper—in support of the cause and Piper, whose neurological condition has left her unable to sit, crawl, hold her head up, stand or eat on her own. Her oxygen saturation levels also drop frequently due to the seizures she experiences, leaving her in need of oxygen therapy.

While Piper has spent much of her young life in the hospital, she is currently at home with her family, which relies on an oxygen saturation monitor to let them know if she needs help. Prior to now, Gibson said there was nothing

she could do if the monitor beeped.

"Having oxygen at home now means we get a little more time with her and the time we have is enjoyable and safe," she said. "We just want to make sure she's having the best quality life possible."

While doctors have prescribed every known medicine to treat Piper's condition, which is causing her brain to atrophy, or shrink, a recent MRI revealed they aren't working.

Gibson said Piper is now off her heavy-duty seizure medication and they're starting to see personality once again in their precious toddler.

"She's smiling, she's giggling. We're getting a bit of life back," she said. "She's showing us how to get on with life, instead of being sad and miserable."

To view and sign the petition visit www.change.org and search for "Piper Gibson."



Erin Gibson with daughter Piper, who is receiving oxygen. Submitted photo

A fundraiser Zumbathon is also in the works for September to help cover the cost of Piper's extensive medical needs and expenses.

Dubbed "Party for Piper," the Zumba marathon charity event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Acton Town Hall, located at 19 Willow St. N., Acton. A minimum \$20 donation to the cause is being asked for admission.

For more information visit www.facebook.com and search for "Party for Piper Zumbathon Charity Event."



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