



**“The only ones who need to make these decisions are the doctor, the patient, and possibly the nurse. No one in an insurance company should be making decisions like that.”**

## Meet Erin Jones & Binky Hughes | Austin, TX

Erin is the primary caretaker for her 65-year-old mother, Binky Hughes, who lives with her. In her professional role, Erin Jones is a disability rights advocate who believes in promoting independent living for all people of all ages. Binky has Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and depends on oxygen and medicines in order to breathe. She also has schizophrenia; diabetes; and is bi-polar. Binky just recently went through a leg amputation caused by her diabetes.

### Their Story

Erin works hard for those she serves, including her Mom. She works hard to get her mother the medicines she needs for her many medical issues. With regard to one particular medicine that Binky needed in order to breathe, getting access to that medicine took Erin six months of frustrating effort.

**“I get so tired of running up against brick walls. It was really scary for me having to give my Mom a medicine that was different from what her doctor ordered, and that made her shake and twitch. Not giving her the medicine she needed - because the insurance company kept saying no - was putting her in a large amount of danger. The easiest solution would have been to give her the right medicine in the first place. From my perspective, step therapy is a pretty useless program.”**

Erin believes patients need the right medicines at the right time. She also believes Medicaid spends more money than needed when patients are not getting the medicines their physicians order. In her Mom’s case, the side effects of not getting the right medicines caused several preventable accidents because she was unsteady on her feet.

As Erin continues to care for Binky, who is making great strides in learning to live with her new prosthetic leg, she remains vigilant in her quest for the *right medicines at the right time* for her Mom, as well as promoting and maximizing independent living options for all people in Texas and beyond.



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