



February 4, 2014

TO: Chair Monnes Anderson and the members of the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee

RE: Support for SB 1553, Creating the State Office of the Public Guardian and Conservator

The Oregon Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Coalition (IDD Coalition) is a group of approximately 30 organizations throughout Oregon that promote quality services and supports to further equality and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

The IDD Coalition envisions an Oregon where people with disabilities have choice and control over their lives, however, the IDD Coalition also recognizes that sometimes people with disabilities need decision making assistance to meet their goals and remain healthy, safe and free from exploitation. In these situations, a judge may appoint a guardian to help the person make decisions. The appointed guardian is often a family member or friend of the person; however, many people in Oregon need guardianship assistance but do not have friends or family members who can serve as guardian.

When guardianship is appropriate, but a guardian cannot be identified, people with disabilities face serious risks of physical harm, homelessness, abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. In these cases, the Office of Public Guardian and Conservator created under SB 1553 would provide these critical guardianship services, which would help the person make decisions, meet their goals and remain safe and free from abuse.

Oregon Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Coalition
PO Box 13924
Salem, OR 97309

www.oregonddcoalition.org
info@oregonddcoalition.org