



February 18, 2015

TO: Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Business and Labor
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director
RE: HB 2618

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is Oregon's federally-funded *Protection and Advocacy* office that provides legal-based advocacy services to Oregonians with disabilities.

DRO shares the concern of many customers, providers and families in the intellectual or developmental disabilities community that employees who provide care in residential environments would be deemed "police."

Managing behavioral problems in a residential facility requires clinical skill, person-centered planning and therapeutic goals. The residents may experience complex and interwoven conditions including intellectual, psychiatric and neurological limitations. Avoiding escalation, timely intervention and individualized responses are at the core of maintaining a safe and effective residential setting for all residents and staff.

Police work is very important and appropriate in many parts of our society. Residential environments that provide homes for people with disabilities are not one of them.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.