

# **How to Provide Oregon's People with Disabilities a Healthy and Independent Way of Life?**

## **HB 2937 is the answer!!**

**I believe in an Oregon that strives to ensure its people with disabilities receive the best healthcare, independence, dignity, and choice.**

Since 1992, Oregon's low income people with disabilities have been receiving their medical benefits through the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). Oregon takes pride in its home and community based services system, which allows people with disabilities to be active members of their communities. Due to an OHP rule that limits coverage of durable medical equipment (DME) like wheelchairs and ventilators to those products that meet the needs of the member for "in the home use only", some people with disabilities are being denied access to durable medical equipment that could help them live healthier and more productive lives in their communities.

**My Story:** I've been physically disabled since birth and rely on the use of durable medical equipment to meet my needs in my home and my community. I'm currently very active in my community and spend a lot of my time serving on numerous councils, commissions, and boards advocating for people with disabilities. I even have aspirations of opening my own business someday. None of this would be possible with inadequate durable medical equipment. I would become a prisoner of my home. So I urge everyone to support HB 2937 and help people with disabilities receive the durable medical equipment that can meet their needs in their communities.

**Problem:** Some OHP members are being denied durable medical equipment that they need to thrive in their communities due to an Oregon rule known as the "in the home use only" phrase. Basically this phrase means if the durable medical equipment meets your needs within the confinements of your home, then it must be good enough to meet your needs anywhere. It never considers the fact that if you have a disability, you still deserve the right to go into your community for education, employment, and socialization just like anyone else.

Unfair limitations and restrictions cause people with disabilities to receive insufficient durable medical equipment that cannot even come close to meeting the individual's needs in the community. This results in risks of bigger and more costly health issues, depression, low self-esteem, and confinement within their homes. Oregonians are being led to believe these individuals are treated as equals and given every opportunity possible to live a healthy, productive life and have a fair shot at education, employment, and community inclusion. How can that be if OHP strips them of that by denying access to durable medical equipment?

**Solution:** HB 2937 will remove the "in the home use only" phrase. Without this phrase, individuals will have access to durable medical equipment that can adequately meet their health care needs in the community giving them better health, high self-esteem, independence and self-worth, dignity, and the choice to be an active and productive member of their community.

**Restore independence, dignity, choice, and access to adequate durable medical equipment for Oregon's people with disabilities.**

**Support HB 2937!!**

**Contact Information:** Joseph Lowe, Oregon Health Plan Consumer, ([TroubleOnWheelz@aol.com](mailto:TroubleOnWheelz@aol.com)), 503-329-3881