



DISABILITY RIGHTS OREGON

March 13, 2015

TO: Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
House Health Care Committee  
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director  
RE: Support for HB 2937

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is Oregon's federally-funded *Protection and Advocacy* office that provides legal-based advocacy services to Oregonians with disabilities. DRO supports HB 2397.

For over 15 years, DRO has conducted a federally-funded program entitled the "Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology", or PAAT Program. Its purpose is to "assist in the acquisition, utilization, or maintenance of assistive technology devices or assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities." (*Assistive Technology Act of 1998*).

Assistive Technology (AT) offers people with disabilities the opportunity to reach their full potential. A fundamental aspect of any life is to have the opportunity to work, shop, recreate, obtain education and engage fully in one's community. As technology advances, AT can free people with disabilities from isolation and allow them access to vehicles, sidewalks, stores, recreation facilities, offices, communications, and virtually all aspects of life that others take for granted.

This is why the need for AT does stop at a person's dwelling and why HB 2937 expresses the values that all Oregonians share to lead healthy, productive and independent lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in favor of this important legislation.