

Although I support the Oregon Health Plan there is wording in this Bill, HB-2937, which in fact creates a situation where gifted and valuable members of the community are unable to participate in anything outside their own homes. This clause states that some durable medical equipment may not be used outside the home, for example wheelchairs and ventilators. This wording restricts all activities that allow people with disabilities to be a part of the general population. The clause isolates them, as well as, the general population regards people with disabilities as incapable of contributing to the community's needs.

For example, I am currently a student at Western Oregon University and have been for the last 3 years. If I was incapable of using my wheelchair outside my home, this educational opportunity would be impossible as I would be immobile and restricted to my home. The reason the ADA was created and made mandatory was so that all citizens would be equal and have the same access to the community. Portable medical equipment allows individuals access to the outside world and makes it possible for equality. I am currently trying to obtain a portable lift system. My insurance will not pay for it, as it does not stay in my house. I am restricted with where I can go in the community. With this kind of equipment, I could go anywhere without having to be held back by my disability.

The clause in OHP states that a wheelchair or ventilator would not be allowed to be used out of the home. This limits many people with disabilities. They are unable to experience life like it should be. Restrictions on the use of vital medical equipment are the same as limiting the movement or breathing of the disabled person. We deserve to live with the same amount of freedom as everybody else

I am in support of this bill but not if it includes this limiting clause. Please consider the needs of people with disabilities as we deserve just as much consideration as everybody else!

Thank you,

Percilla Christensen