



March 19, 2015

TO: Senator Sara Gelser, Chair
Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director
RE: SB 710

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is Oregon's federally-funded *Protection and Advocacy* office. The large majority of our clients receive either Social Security Disability or SSI benefits.

Individuals who are seeking Social Security disability are experiencing difficulty in working and, as a result, financial hardship. The key to completing a successful application is to have a well-documented record of medical history. The cost of compiling that record when, almost by definition, the applicant will have a significant medical history, places that person in a "Catch 22" of having to pay to successfully apply for benefits that are needed due to financial hardship.

SB 710 will remedy this injustice as well as further the social benefit of having appropriate applicants receive Social Security so that they can avoid hardship and have access to housing, food and medical care.

For these reasons, DRO strongly supports SB 710.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important safeguard for vulnerable Oregonians.