



March 24, 2015

TO: Senator Sara Gelser, Chair
Senate Committee On Human Services and Early Childhood
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director
RE: SB 840

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

DRO has no objection to extending the authority to institute involuntary psychiatric holds and treatment to psychiatric nurse practitioners as well as physicians. Under ORS Chapter 426, these treatments can include involuntary medication, application of mechanical restraints, seclusion and transfer: very significant and intrusive practices.

If SB 840 can be interpreted to grant this authority to other medical professions, DRO is concerned that these powers could be wielded by professionals who are not certified, trained or experienced in providing psychiatric care and treatment.

We are unclear how broad the definition of "licensed independent practitioner" is in SB 840. It appears to include anyone licensed or certified in Oregon to provide medical care and services within the scope of that license or certification, without supervision.

DRO would prefer that the definition was more clearly and narrowly tailored to be limited to psychiatric nurse practitioners as well as physicians.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.