



ORA envisions
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inclusive lives.

Oregon Rehabilitation Association urges yes vote on SB 777

The Oregon Rehabilitation Association (ORA) supports passage of SB 777.

SB 777 helps to address a longstanding need of individuals with disabilities and their families by allowing them to create tax-free savings accounts for disability-related expenses – without losing eligibility for federal benefits.

As the hub of Oregon’s disability community, ORA envisions “communities where people with disabilities live rich, full, and inclusive lives.” Our member organizations provide employment, housing, and other supports to thousands of Oregonians with disabilities. SB 777 will give the people they serve greater independence to save for such things as education, housing, health care, and transportation. It also removes barriers to employment, since earnings can be set aside for expenses directly related to one’s disability.

Saving for one’s basic needs is a basic right, and it is appropriate that all citizens should have that right, including those with disabilities.

At present, Oregonians who receive federal benefits such as Medicaid must limit their savings to \$2,000. In 2014, Congress remedied that limitation through the ABLE Act, which created a new Section 529 account type within the Internal Revenue Code. Functioning similar to college savings accounts, so-called ABLE accounts allow people with disabilities to save for important disability-related expenses without jeopardizing their federal benefits. SB 777 directs the Treasury to develop regulations so that financial institutions can offer Oregon residents these important saving tools.

Please pass SB 777. Every Oregonian should have the right to save and plan for the future and ensure that their basic needs are met.

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