

Hi my name is Justin Connolly and I am from Corvallis, Oregon. I am a member of the Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 777.

It is important to me to save extra funding for housing and transportation costs. I live independently on my own in my own apartment. I have lived independently since 1998.

I have not been able to live in a nice house or own my own home. Instead I have lived in worn down homes that are unsafe. Many of these homes are not accessible nor do they meet my needs.

I want something that meets my needs and that is affordable and livable. My dream is to save money to make a deposit to move into a place that meets my needs. If the ABLE Act passed, I would be able to save enough to meet my housing needs and live independently.

Thank you for your time.

Now I will be supporting Kaaren in her testimony by asking her questions. Kaaren would like to introduce yourself?

My name is Kaaren Londahl. I am a self-advocate from Portland, Oregon. I am a member of the Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition and I work for Senator Chip Shields and I do the birthday postcards. I put stamps on the postcards, label them and mail them out. I would be interested in getting another job mailing out postcards at the capitol. That is my dream job. Today, I am here to testify for the ABLE Act.

Questions:

Why is it important for you to save money?

- It is important to save money for the future and not have our parents pay for everything. We want to be independent and our parents will not always be around to support us. We have to learn how to manage our money and save the money and put it in the bank.

How does saving money help you live independently?

- I have to pay for healthcare and this would help me

How could saving money help you pay for healthcare costs?

- I pay out of pocket for some things, including Medicare premiums, eye glasses, medications and dental.

Why should people with disabilities be able to save money?

- People should be independent and manage our money
- It lets us live like anyone else without a disability who wants to save money

Thank you!