



March 1, 2017

TO: Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director
RE: Support for SB 502

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is Oregon's nonprofit *Protection and Advocacy* office that provides legal-based advocacy to Oregonians with disabilities. DRO has a role under state law to monitor guardianship proceedings for individuals with mental health or developmental disabilities who may be placed in restrictive settings. As a result of this work, DRO has reviewed hundreds of guardianship proceedings.

SB 501 would direct the appointment of legal counsel and mandate a hearing when a petition for appointment of a fiduciary is filed by the Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator or a county public guardian and conservator. In these instances, a governmental entity is seeking the authority to control an adult's decisions about where to live, what medical care to receive, how to use and invest finances and many other aspects of life.

DRO supports SB 502 as a means to provide adequate due process protection against an unwarranted profound governmental intrusion into an adult's life.