



March 7, 2017

To: Senate Human Services Committee

From: Gabrielle Guedon, Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition

RE: Support for SB 834 – Proposal for Human Rights Commission

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Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gabrielle Guedon. I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition (OSAC). OSAC is a statewide coalition of 18 local groups. We bring self-advocates together to speak with one voice on issues that are important to us. Human rights matter to us because they help people be equal.

We know that all people are most successful when they control their own lives. They are also successful when they have enough support to feel self-motivated to reach their goals. This helps people grow and be independent.

Controlling basic things like choosing when you eat lunch and when you shower matter in everyone's lives. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are no different in that they have their own schedules they want to keep. Having someone else tell you what time you shower and eat tells us we are not equal to everyone else.

It is important to have a commission make sure that people's rights are respected when they use IDD services. OSAC is very excited to help DHS create a proposal for this commission. If this bill passes, we will have DHS come to our in-person board meetings, have our executive committee members be on the DHS proposal committee and also send newsletters and surveys to our 18 member groups to get their input in the proposal.

Please help safeguard the human rights of people with IDD and pass SB 834.