

## HB 3160

My name is Ruthanne Lidman; I live at 10200 SW Century Oak Drive, Tigard, OR 97224-4643

I am here today to speak in favor of HB 3160 which adds the term "low vision" to the list of persons who may legally use white canes on Oregon's highways and in other public spaces.

The first page of my written testimony has been deliberately printed in 28 point type to

demonstrate

the smallest

print I am

currently

able to read

# without using magnification

The second page of this document has been printed in the largest type size available (72 point) on my computer; it is not quite large enough to show you the much larger size I use to comfortably read on my 32" monitor.

I am 79 years old and in pretty good health, in general. About 3 years ago my vision began to rapidly decline. My retina specialist labeled the progression of my right eye's 'wet' age-related macular degeneration (wet-AMD) the most aggressive case he has ever seen. I was treated, one at a time, with all three of the medications which are currently available; none of them worked and my right eye retina was declared totally

scarred and untreatable on 9/28/15. I was, and still am, almost totally blind in my right eye.

On 1/11/16 my left eye tested at 20/30. One week later I returned to see my retina specialist because I sensed something was wrong. My vision tested at 20/80, and it has only gotten worse since then. My left eye has the 'dry' version of AMD, which means that the retina itself is thinning.

Depending upon who was conducting my most recent left eye tests, my vision is now 20/80, 20/100, or 20/125. One very recent test combined the vision of both eyes and recorded it as 20/160.

I am determined to live independently as long as I can do so safely. Therefore, I have done the following:

Kept regular appointments with my retina specialist.

Had evaluations & recommendations from Dr. John M. Boyer at OHSU/Casey Eye Institute.

I am currently a client of both the TriMet LIFT transportation program and the Oregon Commission for the Blind program for seniors who wish to live independently in their own homes.

I formed a Low Vision Support Group in my 55 & older community.

I asked the City of Tigard to fully install audible signals at three intersections near my community; they did so a few weeks ago.

During an appointment with a physical therapist (for an unrelated problem), she noticed that I wobbled when I walked any distance, and recommended I use a cane. Dr. Boyer agreed with her and encouraged me to use a white cane.



Without the ongoing and steadfast help of Rep. Cowan, my adult children and grandchildren, as well as members of the Summerfield community, I would have a much more difficult fight to preserve my ability to live in my own home.

Today I am asking you to make my use of the white cane legal, so I can lawfully do my own shopping at the closest shopping center, which requires crossing a very busy street.

**Thank you for the opportunity to  
explain my interest in HB 3160.**