



March 28, 2017

TO: Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director
RE: Support for SB 846

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is Oregon's nonprofit *Protection and Advocacy* office that provides legal-based advocacy to Oregonians with disabilities. DRO has worked for years to minimize the use of physical restraints on individuals with disabilities, whether they are in psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, schools, jails and prisons.

Both science and common sense agree that everyone is better off if physical confrontation, violent intervention and physical restraint can be avoided through planning, staff training and a developing a culture of de-escalation. Avoiding staff and individual injuries and trauma is clearly more humane for all involved and also conducive of a better working environment and a cost saver.

A disproportionate percentage of the youth who come to juvenile court experience psychiatric, chemical dependency, intellectual or neurological disabilities. SB 846 recognizes that we can do a better for those youth and their futures as well as the fairness of the system that should strive for justice and recovery.

DRO urges your support for SB 846.