



April 26, 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. This means we speak up for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and support people to speak for themselves.

Our vision for people with disabilities is for everyone to be treated equally and like everyone else. Human rights matter to us because they help people be equal. Controlling basic things like choosing when you eat lunch and when you shower matter in everyone's lives. People with 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. Unfortunately, the rights of people with IDD are not always respected. For example, we have one member who lived in a group home but was told they could not have friends over. We should have friends over when we want. Another example is a person who was told they could only eat at scheduled times. The rest of the day the food was locked up.

It is important to have a commission to review when people's rights are limited. People need to have their rights respected. When this doesn't happen, they deserve to be heard. The state and community need to hear when people's rights aren't respected so we can help fix the problem.

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.