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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 4, 2017
TO: House Committee on Human Services and Housing
FROM: Ava Bartley, FACT Oregon
RE: SB 1027A

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chairs Olson and Sanchez, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing:

FACT Oregon's mission is to empower Oregon families experiencing disability in pursuit of whole lives in their community. The outcome of our work is families with high expectations for their child and a vision for the future where all communities are accessible, welcoming, and embrace that disability is natural.

When Oregon passed its ABLE Act in 2015, disability advocates celebrated, because it enabled individuals experiencing disability to save more than \$2000 without fear of losing their disability benefits. The ability to save money is something that most people take for granted, but until the ABLE Act was passed in Oregon, families who have children experiencing disability were not able to do that because it would jeopardize the services and supports they relied on to help keep their children safe, healthy and supported in their home and in community.

We support SB 1027A because it improves on the existing law by allowing, upon the death of a designated ABLE account beneficiary, transfer to the estate of the designated beneficiary or an ABLE account of another eligible individual specified by the designated beneficiary or the estate of the designated beneficiary. It also prevents the Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority from seeking Medicaid estate recovery payment from amounts in the ABLE account.

Choice and self-determination are important values that are embraced by the disability community. These changes to the ABLE Act honor these foundational values and give individuals and families control and the ability to determine

Empower Oregon families experiencing disability in their pursuit of a whole life by expanding awareness, growing community, and equipping families.

distribution of these assets upon the death of the designated ABLE account beneficiary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input as you consider changes to Oregon's ABLE Act, and we urge you to support **SB 1027A**.

Ava Bartley
Advocacy and Engagement Director
FACT Oregon