



February 1, 2017

TO: Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
House Committee on Health Care  
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director  
RE: HB 2302

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is Oregon's federally-funded *Protection and Advocacy* office that provides legal-based advocacy services to Oregonians with disabilities. DRO has monitored and advocated for the rights and safety of residents of our state hospitals for over 30 years.

Individuals who are held in a treatment facility pursuant to a court commitment receive the highest level of care and the most expensive that the state has to offer. When an individual is no longer in need of that level of care, it is important for their recovery to be moved to a more appropriate setting. It is also important that the bed they are occupying become available to others who need it.

All too often, transfers from hospital commitment can be delayed due to difficulty in arranging the finances and support that an individual needs to continue their recovery. HB 2302 will facilitate timely discharge planning by authorizing OHA to apply, on the individual's behalf, for General Assistance, TANF, SSI, OHP and other state or federal benefits for which they are eligible.

DRO supports passage of HB 2302 which we believe will help individuals to receive more appropriate care for their recovery and use precious inpatient resources more wisely.