



February 10, 2017

Via Email – Rep.MitchGreenlick@state.or.us

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick
412 NW Couch Street #104
Portland, OR 97209

Re: House Bill 2839 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Greenlick:

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) submits this letter in support of House Bill 2839, a bill that would prohibit discriminatory treatment of people with disabilities in the process of determining recipients of anatomical gifts.

CARD is the world's largest organization treating autism spectrum disorder using the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) and the nation's third largest non-governmental organization contributing to autism research. CARD provides services at over 100 locations throughout the United States, including six locations in Oregon, and at international locations in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, employing a workforce of over 2,000 dedicated professionals.

The discrimination against people with disabilities which gave rise to this bill seems predicated on a misguided notion that people with disabilities are less likely to comply with a medication regimen required to optimize the likelihood of a successful transplant. Of course, people with disabilities routinely rely on medication, and it may even be argued that some people with disabilities are *more* accustomed to adhering to a medication regimen than individuals who do not face such challenges.

In the event that an individual with a disability encounters difficulty swallowing pills or complying with a medication regimen, ABA can be used to address pill-swallowing deficits, ensure compliance with a medication regimen, and increase adaptive behaviors overall. Studies published in peer-reviewed journals have demonstrated that behavioral training is effective in helping individuals with developmental disorders and/or low IQ maintain a medication regimen (Jaswinder K. Ghuman, Marilyn D. Cataldo, Melissa H. Beck, and Keith J. Slifer. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology*. January 2005, 14(4): 601-611. doi:10.1089/cap.2004.14.601; Schiff A. Tarbox, J. Lanagan, T, and Farag, P. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. June 2011, 44: 381-385).

Thank you for identifying and advancing this important issue. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at J.Kornack@centerforautism.com.

Sincerely,

Julie Kornack
Director of Public Policy
(818) 345-2345, extension 1070

cc: Committee on Health Care