



February 16, 2017

TO: Representative Brian Clem, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director  
RE: HB 2634

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 proposed HB 2634 as a way to assure that Oregon's laws governing hunting, angling and shellfish licenses and permits are consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and similar state law.

Presently, ORS 497.018 limits the type of disabilities that allow a person to be considered as "a person with a disability under the wildlife laws." These include certain mobility limitations, lung disease, a cardiac condition, permanent impairments that prevent a person from holding a firearm, bow or fishing rod, certain visual impairments and a 65% disabled status with the VA.

The federal ADA and ORS 659A.104 provide protection from disability discrimination in government services to people with a broader range of disabilities and allow those individuals to request a "reasonable accommodation" to program rules. An agency must receive such a request and determine if the person is qualified for an accommodation whether the accommodation is reasonable. The agency may determine that a requested accommodation is not reasonable because it would require a "fundamental modification" of the program, be unreasonable dangerous or costly.

HB 2634 will assure that all individuals with disabilities who are protected by state and federal law from discrimination have those same protections when applying for a hunting, angling or shellfish license.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2634.