

Good day,

My name is David Oleson. I'm a physical therapist living in Portland and working at the Institute on Development and Disability (IDD), a division of the department of Pediatrics at Doernbecher Children's Hospital. I have been in this position since 1982. The IDD is an agency that supports children with disabilities and their families from birth up to adulthood. I am writing to ask your support for the introduction and passage of LC 52 during this Special Session.

In my professional life, I have seen persons who experience disability unable to access the healthcare they need. I have seen people experiencing disability during complex, critical hospitalizations and at the end of their lives denied support and input by trusted caregivers. I am pleased to learn that LC 52 includes provisions mandating support of persons with disability at times of critical/crisis healthcare need and at the time of end of life decisions. Having advocacy from trusted caregivers is critical to the provision of equal access to health care as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Introduction and passage of LC 52 is critical. The needs of persons experiencing disability are no different than those of able bodied Oregonians and they deserve equal access and protection under the law.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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