

To Whom It May Concern,

My adult son has autism, he is non-verbal and not comfortable in environments, and with people, that are not familiar to him. If my son needed to be hospitalized, he would panic and be very frightened without myself, his Dad, or caregivers to support him. Because of his communication limitations it would be difficult for healthcare staff to understand him and vice versa. My son does not grasp abstract concepts, he uses limited modified American Sign Language to ask for food or other items that he wants, he uses gestures familiar to his caregivers, but not familiar or understandable to others.

I am writing today because Oregonians like my son deserve access to healthcare and support from people they trust to help them understand their care and communicate with doctors. Today, too many people experiencing disability are not able to access healthcare, are denied support from people they trust while they are hospitalized or having end of life discussions.

I ask that Legislative Concept 52 (LC 52) be introduced and passed this Special Session so that Oregonians experiencing disability can access healthcare, use support from people they trust while they are hospitalized, and have support when making end of life decisions.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you so much for your time,

Jennifer Hurlburt

971-222-4564