

Hello–

I feel everyone deserves 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.

As a Case Manager/Personal Agent at a Metro Area Brokerage, I have been safety planning with multiple families in fear of their adult child being forced to seek emergency health care without an advocate. Some of my consumers experience communication and behavioral support needs that are amplified in time of stress, uncertainty, and especially sickness. Without an advocate, a person with a disability experiencing a healthcare need may be overlooked, treated improperly, or neglected due to their complex needs.

We need Legislative Concept 52 (or “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 help us keep our most overlooked citizen safe during this pandemic and EVERYDAY when accessing healthcare.

Thank you for your time.

Emily Dinwiddie

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