

Dear Oregon Legislators:

Everyone deserves access to healthcare and support from people they trust to help them understand their care and communicate with doctors; yet, people with disabilities are often denied this support when they are hospitalized or when discussing end of life options.

I am the parent of a child who experiences an autism spectrum disorder. If my son were to be hospitalized, he would need support from people he trusts to make medical decisions about his care. My son would also need support from people he trusts to communicate what works and doesn't work for him, to help him acclimated to a new environment and to communicate with the healthcare professionals helping him. This will help reduce trauma and ensure he receives the medical care he needs.

Because of this, I kindly ask you to pass Legislative Concept 52 so all Oregonians who experience disability can access healthcare, use support from people they trust while they are hospitalized and have support when making end of life decisions.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter.

Laura Dahill
Eugene, Oregon