

Hello,

My name is Stacy Fields and I live in Eagle Point, OR. My brother Kyle was in a car accident several years ago, and has a permanent Traumatic Brain Injury (or TBI) as a result. When he awoke from his three month long coma, he had to relearn how to do everything. Talking and walking took years to accomplish, with a lot of support from our parents and myself.

Nowadays Kyle appears to be a typical healthy adult. However, his TBI has left him without a short term memory and symptoms similar to schizophrenia. He cannot remember events that happened as recently as 2 minutes ago, and leads a very paranoid life due to his memory loss. This has resulted in the need for him to have full time support to remember if he's eaten, taken his medication, and to keep himself and others around him safe from aggressive outbursts caused by his TBI.

I'm sure we can agree that everyone deserves access to healthcare and support from people they trust to help them understand their care and communicate with doctors. My brother Kyle would not be able to remember entering a hospital, why he was there, what he was there for, etc. This could result in him signing documents about his care that he isn't able to understand or remember. It would also result in combative situations with hospital staff or security, without support from someone he trusts.

I ask that 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.

I'm available anytime for questions.

Thank you for your time and considerations,
Stacy Fields
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