

Dear Senators and Representatives,

My name is Alexis Reed. I live in Eugene, OR. I am an independent Behavior Professional working through the state's Developmental Disabilities Services Program.

Several times a week, I hear from adults with intellectual disabilities and parents of adults with intellectual disabilities who are afraid of what would happen if they had to go to the hospital. They are especially concerned about vulnerability due to expressive and receptive communication challenges. Folks that I work for who have moderate comprehension and verbal communication skills under normal circumstances with support, may be further compromised under the stress of a hospital stay. They may be easily confused by medical care choices, easily scared to the point that they may exhibit difficult behavior that puts them at risk of receiving less care, and/or easily coerced into agreeing to something they don't understand. For all of these reasons, having a caregiver at their side would be crucial if they were hospitalized.

Please pass Legislative Concept 52 this Special Session so that we can trust in our institutions to do right by all of our citizens. **Ensure 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.**

Thank you for considering this important issue!

Sincerely,
Alexis Reed

Alexis Reed, CPCC
Positive Behavior Consultant and Trainer
for the Developmental Disabilities Community
541-520-6241
<https://alexisreed.com>

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