



Support Services Brokerage

Assuring a voice and a choice for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Integrated Services Network Support Services Brokerage is an agency contracted with the State of Oregon to provide case management services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in eight counties. Individuals with IDD are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 and experience significant inequities in health and healthcare. One of the reasons for these inequities is persistent disability discrimination and negative bias in the provision of medical treatment. Legislative Concept 52 will ensure that Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities will be able to access healthcare when needed and have their care options presented in a way that they can understand. We are asking for your support and action to add LC 52 to the list of bills to be considered during the special session this week.

Here are some reasons why we are requesting your support for LC 52:

- Communication – Individuals with IDD may experience difficulty with self-reporting to varying degrees. To ensure the best medical treatment, they may require someone to recognize and interpret their communication style or non-verbal communication. They may require the assistance of someone who knows them well, who can see and read the signs that they are in pain or are unwell
- Barriers to Accessing and Complying with Medical Treatment - Many individuals with IDD have complex needs and have a hard time in new situations. It is not feasible to provide the hospital staff with a list of generic directions on how to interact with the individual and recommendations on how to provide care. They need support from someone who understands their needs well and with whom they have a trusting relationship.
- Understanding and complying with medical treatment. Some individuals with IDD need support to comply with medical treatment. They need support from someone familiar so that they do not experience sensory overload and comply with necessary treatments.

Allowing individuals with IDD to have someone with them when hospitalized is essential for the person to have the best health outcomes and it also puts fewer demands on the medical staff.

Thank you for your leadership and support during these uncertain times.

Angela Dionne, Senior Program Director

Jill Sorensen, Chief Operations Officer



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