

**To Legislative Committee: Thank you for accepting this email after 5pm, I just finished my employment work for Monday, June 22, 2020**

Reviewing, "LC 52: Access to Care for Oregonians with Disabilities" I'm asking for 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. Everyone deserves the right to receive access to healthcare and support from people they know and trust. For people with communication disorder, this support is crucial to help with communication with hospital staff.

Greetings, My name is Katherine Palmer and I'm my son's legal guardian, we live in Pendleton, Oregon. My son has Intellectual Disabilities and is unable to communicate his needs verbally, he needs his primary care provider with him during his hospital stays. My sons Adult Foster provider and myself have been advocating for his right to have "his primary care provider" with him during hospital admission. The Oregon Administrative Rule 411-360-200 #1 and #3 for I/DD (Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities) Adult Foster Homes changed on November 1, 2019, on funding to support individuals they serve. The rule states (1) "The Department may adjust, suspend, or terminate payment to a provider when any of the following conditions occur" (3) "A day of service does not apply when an individual: has been admitted overnight to a hospital". Below is a statement from my son's Adult Foster Provider, April Vorhauer-Flatt and myself completed to explain our concerns for my son.

### **Regarding OAR Prohibiting Payment to AFC-DD Provider during Hospital Admission**

Compiled by April Vorhauer-Flatt and Katherine Palmer in 2019. April can be reached at 541-969-4811 and Katherine can be reached at 541-310-7481.

We believe this OAR is dangerous to the health and wellness of individuals served by Adult Foster Care Providers. It is our goal to advocate for people with I/DD so they have the support they require and desire while going through a medical crisis. It should be noted that the State of Oregon has requested providers to submit a cache of documents to the hospital within 24 hours of admission so the staff may support the individual during the hospital stay. However, these documents are created to best serve an individual while they are at home and are not transferable to a hospital stay. For example, an individual may eat independently at home, but while in a hospital refuse to eat. This oversight of the State of Oregon will be devastating for the vulnerable population that we serve.

1. This rule is more aligned with institutionalized care than community based supports.
2. This rule contradicts the ideal promoted by the State of Oregon that individuals receiving services are encouraged to make choices about their care and that services should be Person Centered.
3. A hospital stay creates a new baseline for the individual and home based documents will not apply.
4. The State of Oregon must recognize the rights of an individual to have their health and safety protected; including those individuals who require the greatest amounts of support.

Thank you for your time and contact me with any questions,

*Katherine Palmer*

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