

From: [Michelle Cheney](#)
To: [J1SS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Concept 52
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:31:40 PM

Dear Joint Interim Committee On The First Special Session of 2020 :

As the devoted parent of a now-adult son with Level 2 autism, I am acutely aware of the significance of appropriate support for individuals with disabilities.

Like other autists, my son has a Theory of Mind deficit the equivalent of a three-year old. Practically speaking, my son interprets and responds to social situations with the developmental capacity of a toddler. It is entirely unconscionable to withhold from Oregon's most vulnerable citizens—those in adult bodies whose developmental capacities are equivalent to a child's—the support they need. I am urging you to pass Concept 52 into law this Special Session so that Oregonians experiencing disability can access healthcare, use support from people they trust while they are hospitalized or in congregate care, and have support when making end of life decisions.

I have been a caseworker supporting families with disabled children and adults for two decades. Nowhere on the planet exists a more devoted population of parents. The anguish this lifestyle causes when critical caregivers are denied the right to help in the ways that only they know how defies description. Please, please, do the right thing and pass this legislation.

Respectfully,

Michelle Cheney

Author

Climbing Out of Autism One Bite at a Time

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10