

Hello.

My name is Stephanie. I am a Personal Agent/Case Manager for folks with developmental disabilities in Multnomah and Clackamas and a resident of Portland.

Everyone deserves access to healthcare and support from people they trust to help them understand their care and communicate with doctors. Today, too many people experiencing disability are not able to access healthcare, are denied support from people they trust while they are hospitalized or having end of life discussions.

I'd like to ask that 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.

Once someone with a developmental disability is admitted to a hospital their support providers can no longer be paid. Hospital staff may have medical training, but they don't typically have the necessary experience needed to support someone with a developmental disability. Additionally, each person is unique and their support needs are unique. Support providers are trained and experienced with working with the specific people they support. This is not easily replicated. I have heard horror stories from someone I support regarding what did and would have happened had his provider not chosen to stay with him and support him unpaid.

Thank you,

Stephanie Mullen
(she/her)
Personal Agent
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