

September 21, 2020

To: Chair Wagner and members of the Senate Interim Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments

FROM: Roberta Dunn, FACT Oregon

RE: Consideration for appointment to the Human Rights Commission

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FACT Oregon's mission is to empower Oregon families experiencing disability in pursuit of whole lives in their community. Through services created "by families for families," we have helped thousands of families each year navigate barriers, create a culture of inclusion, and demonstrate that a whole life is possible. The outcome of our work is engaged, equipped families who hold high expectations for their children, have a vision for the future, and that value self-determination; in other words, families who dream big dreams as they raise children experiencing disability and prepare them for whole, full adult lives!

Thoughtful consideration and dedicated due diligence are necessary to ensure that legislative initiatives, and resulting statute and policy implementation, promote and not hinder, core tenets of the Developmental Disability Act (PL 106-402), embedded in Oregon statute in ORS 427.007(1)(a))

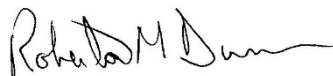
*Congress finds that disability is a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives, and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities through full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of United States society.*

I am the parent of an amazing young man who experiences I/DD, that understands with his entire constitution, that he is his own boss, entitled to make his own decisions and to pursue his vision of what he would like his life to look like. Should I be confirmed, I will bring both my experience as a parent and that as the executive director of FACT Oregon to my service on the commission.

I have read the 2017 Senate Bill 834 Legislative Report, familiarizing myself with the intent and objectives of the commission, and believe an early objective of the commission will be to assess progress already made toward the original intent; along with this, discussion on its efficacy and efficiency within its vision and scope.

Supported decision-making, a paradigm shift from taking ones decision-making rights away with appointment of a guardian, provides an opportunity to further protect the human rights of individuals experiencing I/DD. This potential area of consideration for the commission is also an example in which it, as a collective of vested stakeholders, could support legislators in its advisory role.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you for consideration of appointment. I am happy to answer any questions.



Executive Director, FACT Oregon