



Your Life. Your Voice.

January 22, 2019

To: Sen. Gelsler, Chair, Senate Human Services Committee and members of the committee

From: Gabrielle Guedon, Executive Director, Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition

RE: Support for SB 274 Extend the Choice of Brokerage Services to Youth with Developmental Disabilities Starting at Age 14.

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Sen. Gelsler and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

The Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition is a statewide coalition that supports 18 local groups. All of our members experience intellectual or developmental disabilities. We bring self-advocates together so they can speak with one voice about things that matter to them.

We envision an Oregon where self-advocates live in their communities and have the live they want, have the job they want, live with people they choose, have healthcare and supports they need to be independent.

OSAC supports because SB 274 will support self-determination because it gives choice and control to youth over where they receive their case management services and who supports them to reach their goals.

Self-advocates are most successful when they have the choice of who supports them and what supports they get. Choosing a case manager is a choice about your supports. Case managers assist self-advocates to lead the life they want by finding them resources, support and help them connect with community organizations to be able to reach their goals.

I have personally changed case managers and case management entities in the past. I wasn't getting the supports I needed. Knowing I had the option of switching case managers or case management entities was important. It made me feel like I could start over and do what I needed to do.



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As a youth, having the option to change case managers would have made me feel like I had a voice in where I receive services and who supports me. I didn't have that choice and it was hard to feel like my voice did not matter.

It is important for youth to have a voice because it helps them choose the type of life they want and how they want to live their life. It makes a difference in their own lives and teaches them to speak up for themselves.

Giving youth a choice of case management entities allows them to practice independence so they can be closer to living the life they want. It helps them gain skills to speak up and have more control over their lives.

This is about self-determination which means being able to make the choices about what you want to do in your life, who you want in your life, and where you live. Self-determination is also about the ability to control your life and your supports while you movement to reach your goals. That is why we support SB 274.