

I strongly support passage of HB 2601 which would strengthen oversight and restrictions on private guardians in the state of Oregon. I recently went thru the process in Washington county circuit court to secure guardianship for my father in law who was diagnosed with vascular dementia. The experience was nothing less than a horror show.

I've been told by other families who have gone thru the same process in Oregon courts that the system is rife with corruption- from the court administrators to the attorneys and court visitors to the professional guardians that are appointed. And the corruption doesn't stop with the court process. I have witnessed that once the guardians are appointed they can act with impunity since they know there is little/no oversight of their actions and that there is very little families can do but stand by and watch in frustration and horror as guardians ignore court orders, commit fraud and threaten family members with visitation restrictions using their elder's money to pay for the attorney fees to write the threatening letters. I've been told Oregon and Florida have almost no restrictions on guardian misdeeds compared to other states and that guardians would go to jail in Utah for what they are currently getting away with in Oregon. We should and can do better that this don't' you think? Let's fix this situation and put protections in place to reign in predator guardians so that no one else is forced to go thru what my now broken family was forced to experience.

Regards,

Robert Foulon (native Oregonian)