

May 8, 2019

TO: Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
FR: Bob Joondeph, Policy Consultant
RE: Support for SB 493A

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is the designated Protection and Advocacy agency for Oregon. DRO is mandated by federal and state law to advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities.

We at DRO are very pleased that SB 493A will create a Commission to assure the rights of individuals with IDD. Members of Oregon's IDD Community will be actively engaged overseeing the fundamental rights of IDD service recipients. It will receive complaints of rights violations and, with the consent of the service recipient or their representative, review information relevant to the complaint. The commission may then meet with the Director of DHS or designee to resolve the complaint. All information considered must remain confidential.

SB 493A also directs the commission to establish regional advisory committees that may conduct informational hearings regarding rights violations. These committees will provide a forum for active participation assuring the safety and quality of state-funded IDD services.

SB 493A promotes a model of active community participation in assuring the rights of individuals. DRO wholly supports it.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 493A.