

Dear Oregon House Committee on Rules,

Chair Representative Paul Holvey,  
Vice Chair House Democratic Leader Jennifer Williamson  
Vice Chair House Republican Leader Carl Wilson  
Member Representative Denyc Boles  
Member Representative Rob Nosse  
Member Representative Barbara Smith Warner  
Member Representative Sherrie Sprenger

I ask you to **strongly oppose HB 3431**. Limits definition of "public building" or "property" to exclude convention or exposition centers, zoos, performing arts centers or other venues or attractions dedicated to tourism, travel, hospitality or entertainment for purposes of management by persons who are blind. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

My Great Uncle Abe Karp of Grand Junction Colorado operated a venue at the US Post Office Government Office building for many years. He was blinded at the age of 16. He had one finger & an elbow. After school, he headed to the field & picked up a wood box of blasting caps, the older brothers had accidentally left in the sun. They were blasting tree stumps. It took my Grandfather & a brother 8 hrs to haul him to the hospital with a horse & wagon. That is how my Grandparents meet. Taking care of Abe at the hospital 24/7 for months together. They spent so much time together both caring for Abe, they fell in love. Abe, lived to be 94. Grandpa, John E. Karp lived to be 103, last to die of 11.

Uncle Abe's path was very difficult with the use of alcohol & drugs the Blind Man stumbling around Grand Junction, before he help found AA with the Partner's. He got sober & dedicated his Life to help Veterans. Running the Blind Venue is what made a big difference in his providing support for himself & his seeing eye dogs. This was part of how he helped the Veterans of WW's. I was the recipient of the first Blind Dog in the Nation. Help to set up the Blind Dog original system. So, I have very large shoes to fill with my volunteering. Uncle Abe counseled me, when I became permanently disable from a car accident on 11/7/1989. Abe told me to, "Dedicate Your Life to Volunteering." So, I have.

So in Honor of Abe Karp, I am asking the Oregon Legislators to Fully & Strongly **Oppose HB 3431** limiting venues for Oregon Blind Individuals operating at venues through out Oregon. Blind venue help save his life. Can help others.

Thank you for your full consideration of the consequences to the Disabled Blind. There should be collaborations between Public & Private to work through these current challenges. Allow the Disabled Blind to have more opportunities.

Cyndi Karp  
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