

June 24, 2020

Joint Committee On The First Special Session of 2020
Oregon Legislature

**Subject: AOC Testimony in Support of Health & Human Services Related Provision
Contained in SB 1606 (2020 First Special Session)**

Dear Co-Chair Courtney, Co-Chair Kotek, Co-Vice Chair Girod, and Co-Vice Chair Drazan, and
Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on important legislation related to our state's response to
the COVID-19 crisis. We believe this pandemic has and will continue to exacerbate pre-existing
challenges faced by many constituents in our counties. Specifically we are concerned about the
growing lack of housing affordability and homelessness, impacts of poverty, and disparate
health access.

**AOC strongly supports the Healthcare Equity for People with Intellectual/Developmental
Disabilities provisions of SB 1606.**

AOC supports the provision of SB 1606 to help address the growing disparities in healthcare
access and treatment faced by people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) who:
may lack or not be able to communicate via advance directives or similar healthcare
instructions; who may need to have at least one support person present during a hospital stay;
and/or who have been denied or restricted access to medical resources simply because of their
disability.

The issues being addressed in SB 1606 legislation relate to a variety of basic health care
related inequities that individuals with I/DD have faced for many years. The COVID-19 epidemic
has greatly exacerbated these inequities. We urge you to pass these provisions to address this
immediate and growing problem.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be part of this Special Session and our state's effort to
meet the needs of all Oregonians during this unique time.



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