

Hello,

My name is Jessica Gentile, I am a Personal Agent for adults who experience Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. I would like to advocate that SB 1606 be passed into law to ensure that all Oregonians who are experiencing a disability can have access to healthcare; and importantly have the support from the people that they trust and depend on when they are hospitalized- especially when they are making end of life decisions. It is appalling to me that any sort of discrimination, in this day and age, is still occurring with regularity to our most vulnerable.

I have several adults who are non-verbal and rely on their families and providers, who communicate via sign language, body language, and other non-verbal means that they have adapted. If any one of them were to be hospitalized without their support persons, they would likely also have a psychiatric emergency on top of whatever physical condition led them to be hospitalized.

To feel rushed or pressured to make end of life decisions is simply unethical. Everyone, regardless of age, gender, race, disability status, etc. should be fully informed of all paperwork that they are asked to sign- no exceptions; they have the right to make informed decisions about what they are signing. Just like some people need language translators, people with disabilities need their people to help translate important information to them in a manner they can understand. Importantly, these individuals need the security of knowing that the person(s) they trust (and know will look out for their best interests) can support them during what could be considered a very intense, scary time when hospitalized.

Please work to ensure that not one more person with a disability DIE as the direct result of not having the proper support available to them during their most vulnerable times.

Thank You

Jessica Gentile  
*Personal Agent*  
Pronouns: she/her  
C: 503-320-5649



(503) 935-5243



(503) 546-7820



2475 SE Ladd Ave



Website



Facebook



Support. Advocate. Empower.

*Assisting people with disabilities to live empowered, self-determined lives through community connections.*

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*[Click here for CPI's COVID-19 updates and resources. We're in this together.](#)*

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