

Dear Oregon Legislators:

Everyone deserves access to healthcare and support from people they trust to help them understand their care and communicate with doctors; yet, people with disabilities are currently being denied this support when they are hospitalized or when discussing end of life options.

I am the parent of a child who experiences an autism spectrum disorder. If my son were to be hospitalized, he would need support from people he trusts to make medical decisions about his care. My son would also need support to communicate what works and doesn't work for him, to help him get acclimated to a medical environment and to communicate with the healthcare professionals helping him. This will help reduce trauma and ensure he receives the medical care he needs. As a parent, I simply cannot imagine taking my son to the hospital for care and then being told I must leave. This is not acceptable, but this is something that can be easily changed with your help.

I kindly ask you to pass SB 1606 so all Oregonians who experience disability can access healthcare, use support from people they trust while they are hospitalized and have support when making end of life decisions.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Laura Dahill
Eugene, Oregon