

Hello, my name is Sarah Price and I live in SE Portland. I am emailing to ask that SB 1606 be passed into law this special session so that Oregonians experiencing a disability can access healthcare with support from people they trust. This is an urgent matter that needs to be passed immediately, especially due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the accompanying restrictions that have occurred in hospital settings. Many people with disabilities need someone to assist them with making informed decisions because it can be difficult to understand medical topics. Additionally, a support person offers a level of comfort that is needed for mental health purposes.

My sister is a nurse, and she has found that it can be extremely helpful to have someone supporting a person with disabilities. Hospital staff are not necessarily trained to explain things in appropriate ways, or to de-escalate high emotions. People with disabilities tend to experience a higher rate of trauma, and it would be scary for many, and impossible for some, to navigate the healthcare system, advocate for their needs, or make health related decisions alone. SB 1606 is common sense. Please support some of our most vulnerable community members by passing this into law.

Thank you,

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Support. Advocate. Empower.

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

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

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