

**From:** [Callie Kackley](#)  
**To:** [JISS Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Support for SB 1606: Access to Care for Oregonians with Disabilities  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 24, 2020 1:38:18 PM

---

My name is Callie Kackley and I live in Bend, Oregon. As a parent of a 10 year old daughter who experiences Down syndrome, I can't adequately articulate how critical it is that SB 1606 pass this Special Session. This is urgent for Oregonians who experience disability and too many people experiencing disability are not able to access healthcare, are denied support from people they trust while they are hospitalized or having end of life discussions. Everyone deserves access to healthcare and support from people they trust to help them understand their care and communicate with doctors. This is an emergency and is directly related to the COVID-19 crisis. These changes cannot wait until next year because people with disabilities are experiencing these barriers to health care today.

If my child were to be hospitalized right now, it would be absolutely necessary for her to have access to her personal/direct support person to help her communicate, help her understand what is happening and to help make decisions. While typically that person would be myself or my husband, if we were also sick and unable to be with her, it would be critical that she be allowed to have another support person with her during her hospitalization. Current visitor policies create dangerous barriers for people with disabilities to access critical support while they are hospitalized. Please sign this into law today and help protect some of Oregon's most vulnerable people from being left alone in the hospital separated from their families/support workers to help make critical decisions about their health.

Thank you!

--

**Callie Kackley**