

My Name is Kea Diego, a resident of Redmond, Oregon. I'm in support of Senate Bill 1606, because no Oregonian with disabilities should be without needed support in the hospital. I've worked with people with IDD for the past 8 years. I can help advocate and help speak for those I support and grew to know and understand. If we think about a "normal" parent and child in a hospital setting and know that a child may not know the answers or how to respond to a doctor or other hospital staff, can you imagine someone who lives with IDD and other diverse abilities? People who live with IDD have a wide variety of supports in place who only parents w/someone with IDD or DSP's, PSW's and others in this field can only learn to know and understand. If a person with IDD does not have their support staff/person, who knows them on a personal level and learned their supports, how can you expect a stranger to understand their slang sign language, body cues or differ the noises they make between a good/happy noise verses a bad/unhappy noise? People with IDD who live in a facility, the staff who support them is sometimes the only family or friend they can trust or feel safe with, please help us ease the people we support and bring comfort and understanding to, in what can be a scary situation at a hospital. Please support this bill, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kea Diego

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