



June 22, 2020

Dear Oregon Representatives.

We are writing to urge you to pass Legislative Concept 52 that will ensure that Oregonians experiencing intellectual disability can access healthcare, use support from people they trust while they are hospitalized and have support when making end of life decisions by passing legislative concept 52 as law.

NW Disability Support and ABI is a parent and best practices driven organization representing over 2,000 families in Oregon and work to support issues related to education, public health and policy. We work directly with families and are a touchpoint for these deep concerns and issues in their daily lives.

This urgent public health crisis is of top priority to our families as we are facing challenging times with the pandemic and the worry of their loved ones not being properly supported in hospitals. The likelihood of individuals being deeply impacted or dying from Covid 19 is 16 times higher than their peers for example. The passage of this important law goes beyond a parent just being with their child but supports vital communication, supports with daily needs and important healthcare decisions and understanding of treatments for the individuals and they those that support them.

Legislative concept 52 does this by:

- Mandates hospitals allow support people to patients as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, consistent with the order recently released by US Health and Human Services and current Oregon Health Authority guidelines.
- Clarifies that Crisis Care Guidance may not include provisions that consider the presence of a disability as a determinant factor in the decision of who gets care and who does not.

Ensures that people are not pressured to make end of life decisions on the basis of their disability or as a condition of receiving care; and that they can have support from people they choose for end of life care discussions.

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the committee for considering this very import issue.

11611 NE Ainsworth Circle  
Suite 321  
Portland, OR 97220

Resourcefulness Center  
503-238-0522  
[www.abicommunity.org](http://www.abicommunity.org)  
[www.nwdsa.org](http://www.nwdsa.org)