

Hello,

My name is Stephanie Widler and I live in Redmond, Oregon. I believe that everyone deserves access to healthcare and support from people they trust to help them understand their care and communicate with their doctors. Today, too many people experiencing disability are being denied critical support from people they trust while they are hospitalized or having end of life discussions.

I ask that SB 1606 pass this Special Session so that Oregonians experiencing disability can access support from people they trust while they are hospitalized and have that critical support when making end of life decisions.

My husband was in the ICU with COVID back in April. As an adult without a disability it was difficult for him to navigate the situation and all the information he was and wasn't getting. There were several days when he was unable to communicate with me. When he was able to text with me again, he could not answer any of my questions because he had not thought to ask his medical team, and the opportunities for communication with them were limited. He says he signed everything the hospital put in front of him without understanding any of it.

My teenage son experiences a developmental disability and based on his support needs in everyday life, I cannot imagine him being expected to navigate that situation alone. SB 1606 would allow him and thousands of other Oregonians the support they need to access care, and to understand and participate in important decisions about their health.

Thank you for your time!
Stephanie Widler
Redmond, OR