



Monday, June 24, 2020

Members of the Committee,

My name is Emilie Wylde Turner and I am the Chief Executive Officer at Living Opportunities, a non-profit organization that provides services and supports to Oregonians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) in Jackson County. We support people with (I/DD) to live in the same neighborhoods, work for the same employers and aspire to all the same things that you and I do in our community.

Every Oregonian deserves access to healthcare and support from people they trust and who know them well to help them understand their care and communicate with doctors and other medical professionals. Today, 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. This is a basic human right.

In addition to this work that I do, I am also the parent of a son who experiences autism. I cannot imagine anything more difficult than dropping my son off at the hospital for a medical emergency and not being available to provide supports that he needs. This is unacceptable and yet, this is happening in our state. We can do better, but we need your support.

I ask that SB 1606 be passed into law this Special Session so that Oregonians experiencing disability can access healthcare, use support from people they trust while they are hospitalized and have support when making end of life decisions.

Thank you for your dedication on behalf of all Oregonians,

Emilie Wylde Turner

Living Opportunities, Medford

emilie@livingopps.org