

Please have compassion garnish your thoughts.

SB 1606 pass 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. We must honor their rights as humans with SPECIAL NEEDS. THIS IS THE BIGGEST NEED FACING US RIGHT NOW.!!!

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. Common sense has to be used here! If they need special care for emotional support, physical assistance, language interpretation, navigating stress and stressors. We are the only advocate that they have. To take away or to stop the critical assistance they need to communicate, to trust, to calm them through change, and to make sure they don't experience abandonment in their vulnerable state of understanding, and experience bullying in the form of medical treatment.

Mandating 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.

As we navigate this "new normal" to remember that it's never normal for this "community".

From the day they are born, the fight begins. Our fight to be included, accepted, medically covered, financially assisted with personal support workers. We fight to create friends and communities. We fight for funding and pray for personal of ethics to oversee these responsibilities. Example: Special Olympics are bankrupt, with no games in our future. This is a crime against the most vulnerable.

Sincerely trusting,

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