

From: [Tom Jeannie Kinley](#)
To: [JISS Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Sen Knopp](#)
Subject: SB 1606
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 8:46:26 PM

Honorable Representatives,

These are scary, unprecedented times that cause my husband and I great concern for our son who experiences I/DD. We believe everyone deserves access to appropriate healthcare and support from people they trust. Our concern is that we have provided him this support his entire life, but now in our seventies worry about his future when we are no longer able to advocate and support him. We also realize there are many people like my son without the support of family, so we speak for them as well.

We urge you to ensure the passage of SB1606 this Special Session. It is important so all Oregonians experiencing disability can access healthcare, use support from people they know and trust while they are hospitalized and have support when making end of life decisions. This is especially urgent at this time while we are in the mist of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

I shudder to think about our most vulnerable population at this time. I reflect on a hospitalization my son experienced several years ago. Although he presents himself as being aware and knowledgeable about his health care needs, the truth of the matter is that he is intellectually challenged and can be easily swayed to please professionals. He was prescribed medication that was adversely affecting his mental health. If left to my son, it would seem that it was just his condition of autism that was causing adverse behavior. My husband and I intervened immediately, which prevented a horrible outcome.

It is of the utmost importance that people who provide this support to people experiencing disabilities know them well, and understand their desires and concerns, while providing person centered care.

We appreciate your time to hear our concerns and look forward to a positive outcome.

Sincerely,
Tom and Jeannie Kinley

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