

As someone who had a very poor experience with traumatic brain injury rehabilitation in 2010 (and for a couple years after), I cannot express how strongly I recommend funding a Resource Facilitation program in Oregon, and I urge you to support it as well. I had no coordinated care from my medical or rehab team members, and a facilitator could have helped me communicate with my providers to get my needs met. Instead, I dropped out of nearly all of my rehab before I was done. I was told things by my doctor like, "Stop taking the bus" because bus riding was very challenging for me, but I was given no alternatives for how to get to rehab. Eventually, a Rehabilitation Counselor stepped in and encouraged me to sign up for TriMet LIFT, where I qualified and was able to get back to more life activities like socializing and medical appointments without burdening people for rides. A Resource Facilitator could have expedited that hugely, reducing my burden on others, educating my providers on paratransit (to benefit the next patient), and helping me gain independence without feeling like I was stuck either disobeying my doctor by riding the bus or struggling with constantly getting lost on the bus. I have countless examples of where a Resource Facilitator could have saved me, my family, and my former employers so much grief and confusion by helping us all be more realistic about my needs, my limitations, and my areas where I could continue. It was a couple years of being in a nearly-constant state of confusion of what to do next, and I actually have a master's in speech-language pathology. Imagine what it's like for people who haven't trained to provide rehab to brain injury survivors if even I was lost most of the time in where to go to get my needs met. Resource Facilitators are absolutely key to holding this long, confusing process together. Please vote in favor of funding a program in Oregon that can reduce the number of people getting lost and reduce the number of providers who feel like they don't know who to turn to to get information to support our social, vocational, and emotional lives.

With my sincere thanks,
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