



February 22, 2021

To: Sen Prozanski, Chair, Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

From: Katie Rose, Chair, Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: Support for SB 190, modifying permissible notification methods of appointment of guardian to a protected person.

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Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is a group of approximately 40 organizations and individuals across Oregon that come together to advocate for the services to further the values outlined in ORS 427.007: to support people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) to exercise self-determination, living and working in the most integrated community settings, and providing services for families to raise their children at home. Our members represent advocacy groups (including self-advocacy organizations), family peer supports, DD residential providers, DD supported employment providers, and Support Services Brokerages.

We all regard as fundamental rights the ability to control our lives and make decisions for ourselves—where we live, what we do for work, with whom we associate, how we spend our money, and what we do with our time. Yet, individuals who experience disability are sometimes subjected to guardianship proceedings where they are determined to be incapable of making those types of personal and financial decisions for themselves. Those rights are then stripped away, often permanently.

Requiring guardianship petitioners to provide proper notice and education about guardianship orders will help infuse greater accountability and consideration into Oregon's guardianship process. SB 190 would require prospective guardians to deliver written notice of the order of appointment, in a manner that the person can understand, and with an additional offer to explain the petition orally. These assurances would substantially increase the opportunities given to Oregonians with disabilities to understand and respond to such a petition. Every effort should be made to support a person's ability to understand a legal action that will forever alter their life.

The Oregon DD Coalition respectfully asks that you pass SB 190. Thank you for your consideration of this issue, and protection of the rights of Oregonians with IDD.