



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

*Office of the Director*

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February 1, 2022

The Honorable Senator Sara Gelser Blouin, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Art Robinson, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable Senator Bill Kennemer, Member  
The Honorable Senator Akasha Lawrence Spence, Member  
The Honorable Senator Senator Kate Lieber, Member  
Senate Interim Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: Informational Meeting on SR 201, Kathryn Weit Memorial Testimony

Kathryn Weit worked tirelessly to advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. She was always accessible, informed and had a sense of humor. Kathryn worked as easily with the governor and legislators as she did translating complicated information to people who were doing advocacy so, together, they could accomplish their goals. She had a way of helping parents feel capable and confident. She helped them understand that to set a course for their children's lifetimes, parents must blaze the paths for their children.

At the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS), we require background checks on providers in large part due to Kathryn's advocacy and hard work. She gave expert testimony explaining why it is important to have good providers come into the home. She was also a fierce advocate for the Fairview Trust, recognizing its importance as a symbol of hope and a commitment to never again institutionalize Oregonians with I/DD.

Daily, Oregon's I/DD system is strengthened by the commitment and determination of strong advocates, and Kathryn was the shining star of advocacy. She had a lifelong impact on many people and on the culture of our service system. We thank the Weit family for sharing this wonderful advocate with us for so many years.

In honor of Kathryn and the lasting legacy she left to Oregon's I/DD system, we urge your support of Senate Resolution 201.

Sincerely,

Lilia Teninty  
Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services