



February 1, 2022

Chair Senator Sara Gelser Blouin
Vice-Chair Senator Art Robinson
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Re: Support for SR 201 (Kathryn Weit Memorial)

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery--

We are writing to join the chorus of voices in support of **SR 201**, a Senate Resolution and Memorial honoring the life of Kathryn Weit and witnessing to her extraordinary accomplishments in the disability community.

Kathryn co-founded our organization, which was started in 2002 with seed funding from the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities. Continuing the work we started with Kathryn, we help thousands of families each year navigate raising a child experiencing disability. We support and equip families, wherever they may be on their journey. The outcome of our work is families with high expectations for their child and a vision for the future where all communities are accessible, welcoming, and embrace that disability is natural.

Over the last several decades, we were fortunate to have many opportunities to work closely with Kathryn. Perhaps the most impactful and rewarding work we shared was partnering for over a decade to deliver the life-changing “Partners in Policymaking” training to family members and advocates across the state. Hundreds of parents, family members and advocates graduated from this leadership training program and became activated agents of change, working to share their stories and advocate for improvements to the services and systems that support people experiencing disability.

Kathryn’s many contributions to the disability community in Oregon will not soon be forgotten, and we wish to express our sincere condolences to George, Jessie, Colin, the rest of Kathryn’s family, and to all those who were fortunate enough to know her and call her a mentor and friend.

Sincerely,

Christy Reese, Executive Director
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