

Submitter: Valerie and Dan Close

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Measure: SR201

Kathryn Weit was a true hero in her work to improve the lives of people with disabilities and their families. She inspired, lead, cajoled, and united a community. Kathryn always emphasized the need to both dream beyond the current situation and not to accept anything less than full self-determination for people with disabilities. Kathryn was at her best when coordinating and leading the Partners in Policy Making Workshops. When participants and graduates of these workshops entered the advocacy and legislative arena, they were both informed and empowered. Equally important, they knew they Kathryn would mentor and support them in their continuing efforts.

In our roles as faculty members of the University of Oregon and providers of services to young families and adults with disabilities, we saw first hand the power of Kathryn's legislative and interpersonal genius. We saw her impact on those we worked with and the life changing legislation she promoted.

Kathryn's legacy is in transforming the developmental disabilities community into an advocacy and legislatively focused force in Oregon , and in shaping, inspiring and promoting people with disabilities and their families to lead the effort.

We encourage the adoption of SR201 by the Oregon legislature to honor the work and far-reaching impact of Kathryn Weit.