

Submitter: Gerry Stolp

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure: SR201

Dear Senator Sara Gelser Blouin and the members of Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery,

I am pleased to honor my good friend and colleague for 35 years, Kathryn Weit. She was a unique advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and for creating meaningful supports.

I would like to focus on just one aspect of her remarkable career, The Fairview Trust, that has provided invaluable housing supports for so many persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Kathryn was instrumental in securing legislative authority for the Trust, and her imprint is on the statute that was crafted to enable it. In collaboration, she wrote the administrative rules that facilitated its operation. The Trust has addressed the needs of hundreds of individuals and families for home adaptations that have augmented independence and safety for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Kathryn was instrumental in organizing the Fairview Trust Advisory Committee that determined policy and oversaw income and expenditures of the Trust. She also realized the necessity of preserving the records and historical documents about Fairview so that future generations would understand and avoid the tragedy of institutionalization.

At a time when the Oregon Legislature viewed the Trust as a potential source of revenue during an economic downturn, Kathryn fought to keep the fund from being raided for other purposes. Her efforts preserved the corpus that continues today. In the final years of her life, Kathryn expanded the vision of how the Trust might be used so that its benefits can endure for future generations. She guided the fund's relation to the Oregon Community Foundation to preserve its assets and impact indefinitely.

Kathryn was a star in the firmament of courageous advocates for persons with disabilities--small in stature, but big in compassion and intellect and wisdom. Her legacy will continue for many years.

Respectfully submitted, Gerry Stolp