

February 1, 2022

Chair Gelser Blouin and Members of the Committee:

I am Dayna Davis. I am a self-advocate from Eugene. I support SR 201 honoring Kathryn Weit and offer this testimony to explain why Kathryn deserves this honor.

Kathryn Weit and I worked together to close the Fairview Institution. She was the grease that moved the wheels of the Staley lawsuit. Her husband is a carpenter but only worked on ADA projects for people with disabilities. That is important. We learned self-determination together.

Self-determination means I can do what I want and make my own choices. At the time, self-determination was a new concept for us. We traveled to South Carolina for a symposium on Self-Determination. But it was good that we learned self-determination together so we could work together to help other self-advocates and families learn about it too. That is what Kathryn's legacy left us.

It is important that people with disabilities make our own choices. It's simple. We are like anybody else. People do best when they make their own choices.

When I moved to The Dalles, I was living a life without self-determination. At that time, it was not what I wanted. I worked at the sheltered workshop in the Dalles. They were making us clean the workshop. They only paid us a few dollars a week. We deserved better. I didn't like working there. It felt like my voice was taken away because people didn't understand that what I wanted mattered. Its my life. Living without self determination is the wrong road.

After my mom died, I moved to Eugene. I had to get to know myself and who I really was. Ever since then I have lived with self-determination.

When I think of Kathryn Weit I think of a trailblazer.

Thank you for your time and for honoring Kathryn Weit.

Sincerely,

Dayna Davis