

To: Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery
Chair Senator Sara Gelser Blouin
Vice Chair Senator Art Robinson
Members of the Committee
Senate Committee on Human Svcs, Mental Health and Recovery
Jessica Weit
Colin Weit
George Braddock

From: Julia Greenfield

Date: August 3, 2021

Re: SR 201 (Kathryn Weit Memorial)

I write to convey my enthusiastic and whole-hearted support for SB 201. I join you in honoring Kathryn Weit and expressing my deep gratitude for her life and her life's work. Thank you for this public recognition of Kathryn's incredible legacy.

As a staff attorney for Disability Rights Oregon, I served on the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities for nearly a decade, when Kathryn was the Council's Policy Director and later its interim Executive Director. I had the great fortune to collaborate with Kathryn on a number of policy initiatives related to improving the lives of Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Kathryn was one of those rare people who could see both the forest *and* the trees. She could ably lead others through the forest no matter how dense the foliage and no matter how long and difficult the trek. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to follow Kathryn as she forged numerous paths through numerous forests. Somehow, with Kathryn in the lead, those of us accompanying her always emerged together into the light.

Kathryn well understood the legal, financial and policy considerations and implications of any issue affecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She also had a deep understanding of the practical real-life implications for individuals and their families. Kathryn knew exactly how legislative and regulatory initiatives could and would impact people's lives, whether positively or negatively, in both large and small ways. She gleaned this understanding from the many hours she spent side by side with families, in their homes and communities, listening and learning.

Kathryn was smart, strategic and shrewd. She was also incredibly empathetic and inclusive. She forged alliances, built coalitions, and made connections. Kathryn managed to nurture in other people her own deep commitment to achieving meaningful broad scale policy change with and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She'd take you into her confidence, plant an idea in your head, make you think it was your own idea, guide you through all the steps involved in working through the idea, and then congratulate you when the idea finally manifested, as if somehow the credit was all yours.

Kathryn had a wonderful sense of humor. It was a joy to work with her and to know her. I am grateful to Kathryn's family for sharing her time and attention with the advocacy community all these years. She is deeply missed, but her legacy lives on.