

Madame Chair, members of the Senate Committee on Health Care, my name is David King and I serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance. I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on Senate Bill 1528 and the positive impact it will have on all Oregonians affected by brain injury. When I use the phrase "all Oregonians affected by brain injury," I want you to picture a pebble being dropped into water and for you to imagine the concentric circles that emanate from the impact of that pebble hitting the water. The first circle you imagine is the individual experiencing the brain injury. The circles moving away from the point of impact represent the family, friends, school, work and other vital aspects of an individual's life. Life following a brain injury is often overwhelming not only for the person with the disability but also for the people supporting them. With your support, this bill will establish some incredible outcomes for all Oregonians affected by brain injury.

Senate Bill 1528 seeks to replicate a program often referred to as Brain Injury Resource Facilitation that all but eleven states have already adopted. Simply put, Brain Injury Resource Facilitation is a confidential service that connects individuals and those caring for them with the services, resources and answers they need to navigate life after a brain injury. Most individuals leaving the hospital are not aware of the deficits and limitations caused by their injury. The proactive approach of regularly scheduled phone calls allows time for trust and rapport to be built with each individual when they are most vulnerable. Regular contact with a Brain Injury Resource Facilitator helps to minimize the amount of frustration and disruption experienced by individuals with a brain injury by acknowledging and normalizing what they are feeling

and connecting them to the supports and resources they need exactly when they need them.

When Dave Kracke and his team first began talking to Minnesota about their interest in starting this model in Oregon, I was honestly surprised. I know Oregon as a state so well-known and respected for its research and policies pertaining to brain injury. It never occurred to me that Oregon would not already have something like Brain Injury Resource Facilitation in place. Please understand that I say this not to chastise but rather to encourage you to further strengthen the reputation Oregon currently holds in the national brain injury community.

Dave Kracke and his colleagues at the University of Oregon turned to the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance for assistance in developing this concept because Brain Injury Resource Facilitation was started in Minnesota and Minnesota has become the gold standard for this service. If this bill is passed, you have my commitment that as Oregon is developing this program, my organization and I stand ready to assist with our time, talent and resources to ensure the launch and success of this program in Oregon.

In closing, I ask for your wholehearted consideration of the passing of Senate Bill 1528 and the creation of a robust Brain Injury Resource Facilitation program in Oregon. Thank you for your time.