

Submitter: Dawn McLean  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure: SB420

Statement of Dawn McLean's SUPPORT of Senate Bill 420.

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I am writing to express my strong support of SB 420, providing resource navigation to Oregonians who experience life with the after effects of brain injury.

I am the mother of an adult survivor of a traumatic brain injury. I traveled from out of state back to Oregon in 2020 to support my loved one's journey navigating Oregon health care systems and services. As a retired health care provider, I was appalled at the lack of coordination of care, knowledge of providers, and challenges that my compromised family member experienced in an effort to obtain an evaluation, diagnosis, and comprehensive plan of care. Even with my own 30+ years of experience within various health care systems, I found my role as advocate and barrier buster extremely frustrating. Grateful I had the skills and abilities to be a navigator, aware I too was grieving and on a steep learning curve, I cannot imagine those without support systems or alone in their journey trying to figure out a path to their new normal. The trauma of the navigation experience alone, created a huge amount of distrust that my family member has yet to recover from.

We can and must do a better job serving a vulnerable and compromised population.

I urge your integrity in supporting SB 420. Brain injury resource navigation is a first step to bringing life changing support to many, including veterans, unhoused individuals, athletes, domestic violence survivors. Nobody anywhere is exempt from the possibility of needing such a resource. Your life or the life of those you care deeply about can change in a minute. Be a part of creating a robust, functional, integrated model of service for those eventualities. Other states have excellent programs for survivors and their families. We need to get with it.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Dawn McLean  
Milwaukie, OR