

Submitter: Stephanie Johnson

Committee: Senate Committee Judiciary

Measure: SB528

As a managerial employee of Good Shepherd Fund which provides guardian and conservatorship services in Oregon(a non-for-profit) I write you today in **opposition to SB528** for the following reasons:

- SB528 poses a major financial impact to guardianships and conservatorships (but especially guardianships where often none of the parties have the resources to support these costs)
- SB528 will create a crisis for Oregon's probate courts
- SB528 will discourage parties to serve due to excessive expense associated
- SB528 will result in the reduction in the willingness and availability of professional fiduciaries to serve as guardians
- SB528 increases the likelihood of trapping more people in hospitals who can't be discharged without a guardian
- SB528 lacks any legal structure to implement "supported decision making"
- SB528 requiring notices speaks to an underfunded and failing program to appoint attorneys for respondents that is currently only operational in a handful of counties
- SB528 increases the strain created on the already over-taxed, over-burdened pool of court visitors
- SB528 contributes logistical issues and adds burden to the courts in counties that currently have parties secure the services of a court visitor from the court-approved list
- SB528 poses additional financial burdens to guardians and conservators
- SB528 increases burdens to "end of life care" decisions that don't even exist for individuals not adjudicated to be incapacitated
- SB528 poses a nightmare for the protected person psychologically and financially by requiring review of the guardian's report
- SB528 poses a redundant request as professional fiduciaries are already required by our professional ethics to consider less restrictive alternatives

Thank you for your review,

Stephanie Johnson, Good Shepherd Fund VP Person-Centered Services, LCSW CLPF NCG