

Submitter: Devon Lawson-McCourt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB1522

To the Esteemed Members of the Senate Committee On Human Services,

In an age where justice, equality, and human rights are increasingly recognized as the pillars of a progressive society, Senate Bill 1522 emerges as a beacon of hope for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). As a steadfast advocate for socialist principles that emphasize the inherent dignity and worth of every individual, irrespective of their mental or physical condition, I am compelled to express my unwavering support for this landmark legislation.

The historical injustice of involuntary commitment based on an individual's intellectual capacity stands as a stark reminder of our society's past failures to recognize the humanity and autonomy of all its members. Such practices not only strip individuals of their freedom but also deny them the respect and agency that are their birthright. SB 1522 courageously addresses this grievous wrong by repealing statutes that have long sanctioned the involuntary commitment of individuals based solely on IDD. This represents a monumental step towards rectifying the systemic discrimination faced by individuals with disabilities and reaffirms our collective commitment to the principles of liberty and justice for all.

Furthermore, the prohibition against denying mental illness services to individuals with IDD encapsulated in SB 1522 is a testament to the kind of inclusive, compassionate society we strive to build. It acknowledges the complex, multifaceted nature of human beings and ensures that no individual is denied the support and care they need because of a co-occurring intellectual or developmental disability. This is a clear reflection of the socialist ethos that champions the provision of comprehensive, universal care as a fundamental right, not a privilege contingent upon one's condition.

By enacting SB 1522, Oregon has the opportunity to lead by example, demonstrating that a society's greatness is measured not by its wealth or power, but by how it treats its most vulnerable members. It is a call to action for us to build a community where everyone, regardless of their mental or physical abilities, is treated with the respect, dignity, and compassion they deserve.

As we look towards the effective date of July 1, 2025, let us work together to ensure the successful implementation of this Act. Let us educate, advocate, and mobilize to support individuals with IDD, ensuring they have access to the services they need and the freedom to live their lives to the fullest. Let us show that in Oregon, we prioritize humanity over prejudice, care over coercion, and justice over discrimination.

Sincerely,
Devon Lawson-McCourt