



DISABILITY RIGHTS OREGON

February 5, 2019

TO: Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director
Jan Friedman, Senior Attorney
RE: SB 681

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is the Protection and Advocacy office for Oregon. We have provided legal-based advocacy services to Oregonians with disabilities since 1977.

DRO strongly supports the policy set forth in Section 2 of 681 that a less restrictive alternative to the appointment of a fiduciary for a person with a disability be considered prior to the initiation of a protective proceeding under ORS chapter 125, and that supported decision-making agreements should be considered as a less restrictive alternative to protective proceedings.

We are concerned, however, that the manner of establishing formal supported decision-making agreements is overly complex and will be of little utility for the people for whom it is intended. For that reason, we believe that more work needs to be done to truly achieve the goals of SB 681.

With greater simplicity for the individual, adjustments to the guardianship statutes and adequate protection against misunderstanding and exploitation, a bill can maximize the independence and self-direction that most of us desire.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.