

April 24, 2019

TO: Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
FR: Bob Joondeph,
RE: Support for SB 167

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

DRO supports SB 167 to continue Oregon's recognition of the basic rights of individuals who use publicly-funded community mental health services.

In 1991, the Oregon legislature created system of mandatory abuse reporting and investigation for people receiving community-based mental health services. Two years later, it created a bill of rights for those individuals. Due to changes in the way mental health services were funded, publicly-funded services provided through CCOs were not subject to abuse reporting and rights protections.

In the 2018 session, SB 1540 corrected state law to assure that the protections of mandatory abuse reporting and investigation were restored for those receiving publicly-funded mental health services through a CCO. The community bill of rights, however, was not updated in the same manner.

SB 167 uses the same definitional changes contained in SB 1540 (from 2018) to assure that Oregonians who receive publicly-funded community mental health services enjoy the same rights as they have for the past 25 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 167.