

Thank you Chair Burdick and Senators. My name is Allen Hines and I am from Senate district 21. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you as a nominee for the Residential Ombudsman and Public Guardianship Advisory Board (ROPGAB). As a person with a developmental disability, I deeply value the work of the Residential Facilities Ombudsman and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs. These programs are critical to the health, well being, and self determination of individuals who live in group homes, foster homes, nursing homes, and other facilities.

I currently volunteer with the Residential Facilities Ombudsman as a certified ambassador. In this role, I visit residential facilities to promote the services of the RFO to residents and staff. These services preserve residents' dignity and resolve issues that arise. As the program's first certified ambassador in Multnomah County, I have recruited several others to join me in this capacity.

I am the director of Real Choice Initiative, a Portland-area nonprofit run by and for people with disabilities. Our focus is individual and systems advocacy and education to support this community to make informed decisions about where we live and receive services. In the 2019 legislative session, I testified alongside others with disabilities in support of SB 20, which ensures that people who receive intellectual and developmental disability services are presented meaningful choice among service settings. In the summer, Real Choice Initiative gave a statewide presentation to case managers about the legislation.

My experience in direct service work with people with disabilities, my position within the disability community, and my knowledge of the intellectual and developmental disabilities systems will serve me well in this position on the ROPGAB. Thank you for your consideration.