

I work for ODHS for aging and people with disabilities. On a near daily basis, I work with individuals and acutely experience the fallout from the lack of availability of public guardianship. There is a growing population of adults, who lack capacity and endanger themselves and others on an ongoing basis. Additionally, they strain our medical system as 'frequent flyers'. People with lifelong struggles with substance abuse, mental illness and/or houselessness are experiencing early onset dementia. They don't have family or friends invested in their lives, or their family and friends lack the means to pursue guardianship.

I have seen this result in people being hospitalized for months at a time, or experiencing repeat incarcerations, and even death.

Please approve the expansion of the OPG, so we can better serve our most vulnerable Oregonians.

Thanks,

Nancy Fairchild