

Letter in Support of HB 700

Dear Committee Members,

3/11/2021

I want to express my support for funding a Brain Injury Resource Facilitation (BIRF) Program in Oregon. I suffered a TBI in November 2014 and my life as a teacher, active community member and parent was deeply impacted. I had to find my way through getting longterm disability, applying and being denied social security disability on top of finding treatment for the severe health impairments I suffered for over two years. Luckily, I am very resilient and have a strong community of family and friends. But, it is no small feat to find your way to recovery and regain your strength from a brain injury. You look "normal" to others but even having a conversation can be exhausting. Reading was impossible without a year and a half dedicated to vision therapy and I had been a reading specialist in the schools beforehand! I am thankful that I found the Brain Injury Connections NW Group for support and guidance. But, I want people in the future whether they're students, adults or families needing help to get much more support than I did. It could really make a difference and improve (even save) many lives.

Thank you for considering my testimony and supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

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