

Hi my name is Becky Nakasone. I am the mother of twin daughters who live with autism and a son with cerebral palsy. As you know the choices for independent living are very slim in Portland Oregon. I have worked with RFO As a volunteer going into group homes and supporting the end of visuals who live there. I found this to be a program that needed lots of volunteers due to the lack of staff provided by the state of Oregon. They desperately need more staff to cover the whole state and to protect the rights of those individuals with mental health problems, Intellectual and developmental delay problems, and children with these conditions also. I experienced such things as every person in the home being completely nonverbal and there was no means of communication set up. There were no communication devices, they were no visual communication charts, and the individuals we're at the mercy of the workers to be herded to and from whatever they wanted them to be doing. It was often no choice. There also were problems with personnel searching through their personal belongings when they returned home From an outing in the community. It was not unusual to find a door knob have been put on backwards so that the lock was on the outside of the door instead of the inside. These individuals need a voice, they need representation, they need people who understand their situation.

I'm sending this today in support of HB5019 and specifically to request more staffing for the RFO program and Toni Larson. There are over 10,000 individuals you are counting on us to be sure they are safe and included in our community. Please stop and consider what it would be like to not have a voice or anybody to support you. Each of you reading this Probably have a family, a staff, a job, a group of individuals who support you and make your life meaningful and you live that life that you've been given out in a community. Please support and provide the money needed to make this possible for individuals to find it necessary to live in group homes. Thank you for reading my request.  
Becky Nakasone