

Maerch 11, 2021

Statement From: ACL Board Member Lynn James-Jackson

Statement of Support for SB700

Dear Madam Chairperson Patterson and Members Committee;

In Christmas Eve of 1997, I was assaulted by a partner I was dating, my head was smashed head into concrete. The paramedics found me laying on the side walk. I had a traumatic brain injury the entire side of my head had to be shaved with staples and a ruptured ear drum. I could not walk, talk or think. I was sent home a few days later. My children were very young at the time and I was not able to take care of myself or my children. My personality changed and my kids were afraid of me for some time because of there was such a dramatic change in my demeanor. There was no neurologist, otolaryngologists for the ruptured ear drum, speech pathologist. I know now I needed mental health providers to help with the post-traumatic stress of the attack and physical therapist for my unsteady gait. There was absolutely no resources for me whatsoever. I had to do it all on my own with three small children.

There were days I would just lay in bed and stare at the wall. My oldest son had to help me get his younger siblings ready for school. I was unable to cook for them anymore to this day my children make jokes about my cooking. Because I could all buy pre-prepared food to warm up for them to eat. There were days the bills were not paid, we had no lights. My mother eventually had to come relocate from Spokane, Washington to help me recover from the traumatic brain injury to be a care provider and childcare provider for the children. This led to all sorts of hardships. This is why Oregon must dedicate information and resources for individuals with traumatic brain injuries. I hope this bill being passed will help others moving forward to get the support, information and resources. So Oregonians will never, ever have to endure such a catastrophe life changing experience alone like my family and I had to.

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ACL Board of Directors

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