



TO: Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Anderson, & Members of the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery Committee
FROM: Disability Rights Oregon (DRO)
DATE: March 23, 2021
RE: DRO 's Testimony in Support of SB 686 if amended

Dear Chair, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) submits this testimony in support of SB 686 if amended.

Giving patients choice regarding the way they receive mental health care improves outcomes. DRO supports creating an environment where patients in secure mental health treatment facilities can build trust in their providers and feel safe speaking openly and freely with their doctor without others over hearing their private conversations. SB 686 is an attempt to address the real concerns of individuals who have felt they did not receive high quality care due to a lack of in person communication with their diagnosing or prescribing doctor. Amendments are needed to clarify what facilities should be covered in this legislation and when exceptions to this requirement for inperson care can be made, such as rural providers who are struggling to find in person providers, or during a pandemic.

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this bill please contact Meghan Moyer at 503-432-5777.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Disability Rights Oregon is a statewide nonprofit law firm that upholds the civil rights of 950,000 people with disabilities in Oregon to live, work, and engage in the community. Disability Rights Oregon works to transform systems, policies, and practices to give more people the opportunity to reach their full potential. Since 1977, the organization has served as Oregon's federally authorized and mandated Protection & Advocacy System. Disability Rights Oregon is committed to ensuring the civil rights of all people are protected and enforced.