

Chair Gelser Blouin and Members of the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery Committee

Re: Senate Resolution 201: Honoring Kathryn Weit

My name is Dianna Hansen and I am writing this today from Tumalo, Oregon.

I met Kathryn Weit back in 2005 when I served on the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC). As a mom new to the world of disability and this Governor appointed position, she sat next to me during my first and many subsequent meetings to fill me in and catch me up on the conversations that had started prior to my appointment. She called me out into the hall or demanded I walk to the parking lot with her often for disability history lessons and to explain the bigger initiatives she and others had planned for Oregon.

Little did I know that first day I met Kathryn, it would be the first day of a mentorship, a friendship and lifelong call to action...it would change my life and the future of my daughter's life well beyond anything I could have imagined at the time.

Throughout the many years there was little that happened in Oregon related to those with disabilities that she didn't have a hand in. Kathryn was a strong, passionate advocate who had a knack for identifying strengths in parents and individuals with disabilities that she could foster and polish into fierce advocates who would advocate beside her to improve the lives of countless people in Oregon for years to come.

We will never know the true impact Kathryn had on Oregon families but we can be rest assured, her impact was a unique gift to us as families and most of all our children who are growing up in their communities, working, playing, learning, living, driving, loving and praying beside their peers.

Thank you Katherine from the bottom of my heart....you are missed but live on in our work, hearts and lives every single day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianna J. Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dianna J. Hansen  
Family Network Director and Passionate Mom to Victoria