

To: Sen. Gelser Blouin, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery
From: Sandy Leifeste, Executive Director, Full Access
Re: Senate Resolution 201, honoring the life and works of Kathryn Weit

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Full Access Board and Staff in support of Senate Resolution 201, honoring Kathryn Weit. Full Access is one of 14 Support Service Brokerages across Oregon that provide case management services to adults with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities who live in their own or family homes. In Lane County, Full Access provides case management services to nearly 500 people. We connect people to their community and assist them in making the important decisions and choices so they can live the life they choose, including living and working where they choose.

As the Community First Choice K Plan was beginning in the DD services, it was important to ensure the values that had been advocated for continued to be included in the services. In 2013 Kathryn took on the role as the first Executive Director of the Oregon Support Service Association. In this role, she was able to continue her work and advocate on behalf of the Brokerages our commitment to self-determination.

Kathryn used her passion and leadership abilities to advocate for change. She was influential as a state and federal leader for over 30 years. She was involved in advocating through various system changes. Kathryn was instrumental in ending the waitlist to access services, the inclusion of people with disabilities in the Oregon Health Plan, the closure of the Fairview state institution, and in the creation of the Brokerage system. Kathryn championed person-centered case management, ensuring people the opportunity to choose where they will receive their case management services and choices on where and how they would receive their support services. She was key in the development of the Parents in Policy leadership program as well as the Oregon Commission on Autism and the Oregon Alliance for Early Intervention. Due to her advocacy for diploma options, including modified and extended, many students who experience disabilities have been able graduate with their high school diplomas.

Through her advocacy, passion, and leadership abilities, Kathryn was able to promote and assure the integrity of Support Services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities statewide. Full Access was fortunate to have Kathryn's service and support as part of our Board from 2015 through 2020.

Full Access wholeheartedly supports Senate Resolution 201 and we ask the Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery to do the same.

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