

January 31, 2022

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

Thank you for honoring Kathryn Weit for her work on behalf of Oregonians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families. During my 25 year career within the Office of Developmental Disabilities, I was never without the presence and guidance from Kathryn.

Kathryn was more than an advocate for change, she was a strategist, a planner and an organizer. She could work across the many stakeholder groups to assure that people with disabilities and their families could have a good life that included living and working in their communities. Kathryn was key to accomplishing many of the big changes that Oregon undertook such as the closure of Fairview and Eastern Oregon Training Centers, the creation of the Fairview Housing Trust fund, the development of Support Services, the creation of Family Centers and the focus of person centered planning. And she was there for the ongoing work of rule development and budget work. She was passionate and practical. She knew she spoke for many and was always able to speak for herself.

On a personal level, Kathryn helped me understand the joys and challenges of family life that includes a family member with a disability. She was a mentor, a colleague and most important, a friend. Oregon was changed for the better because of the work Kathryn did. We all owe her our gratitude.

Thank you

Mary Lee Fay

Past Administrator of the Office of Developmental Disability Services 2001-2012