

January 23, 2023

TO: Chair Gelser Blouin, Members of the Senate Human Services Committee
FR: Jake Cornett, Executive Director
RE: Support for SB 420

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is the Protection and Advocacy office for Oregon. We have provided legal-based advocacy services to Oregonians with disabilities since 1977.

SB 420 addresses two important concerns related to services for people with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI).

1. Sets up an Advisory Council to oversee the services provided to individuals with TBI, that includes members with lived experience. This Advisory Council would be tasked with overseeing the added services, including identifying additional unmet needs for people with TBI.
2. Provides person-centered services for individuals with TBI including: Service Coordination; Resource facilitation; Advocacy; and Options counseling.

DRO has found that for people with TBI, appropriate health care, residential placements and other services are unduly limited. Services and advocacy are key to prevent the current criminalization as well as victimization of individuals with TBI.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SB 420.