

I strongly support SB 420.

Five years ago, I suffered a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) during a rock-climbing accident in Central Washington. I was 24 at the time and saw the world ahead of me with great promise. Before my accident I was very excited about working as a Mechanical Engineer on the design of Boeing's new 777x aircraft.

The injury changed the course of my life for sure. Every TBI is different, and my biggest challenges are balance and motor coordination. I am still a fall risk and my fine motor skills are challenged by work with my hands. Thankfully my engineering skills are largely intact. Though it takes me a little longer to solve technical problems, I can still do them.

I still do weekly therapies. I work part-time doing marketing and social media posts for two non-profits that work with brain injury survivors: the Sarah Bellum's Bakery and Workshop in Multnomah Village and Oregon Adaptive Sports in Central Oregon. I am a member of an Adaptive Climbing Club in Portland. I continue to make significant gains and the insurance company still provides coverage. My goals are to walk, to live independently again, and to get back into the engineering work that challenges my mind. These are all on the horizon for me.

I urge you to do whatever you can to pass SB 420 as quickly as possible. I have been very fortunate to have a family with the time and resources to find the services and programs that have been essential to my recovery. Many others who live with brain injuries do not. They need Resource Navigation to help find the programs and services that are critical to getting their lives back on track.

Thank you!