

Submitter: Norman Gruber
On Behalf Of: Minds in Motion Steve Paysinger
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB420

Dear Committee A year ago last October, our families life changed forever. My wife had a serious head injury due to a vehicle accident on our property. She spent 7 weeks in Salem Hospital and we almost lost her in the early days of her hospitalization. Elyse had massive head injuries and was in ICU for weeks. Slowly she woke up but had no recollection of what happened and didn't recognize anyone including me her husband of 40 years. Part way through her hospitalization the case manager wanted us to meet to discuss her options post discharge. I had been the CEO of Salem Health for 13 years before my retirement in 2016. I assumed I was knowledgeable about the process and surly there would multiple options for her rehabilitation for her Traumatic Brain Injury. Was I mistaken. In discussions with the case manager and others in the family and her physician I found there were no options in Oregon. Was I shocked to find the closest rehab program for TBI patients was in California. As we did more homework it became apparent TBI patients recover far better by staying in a familiar surrounding and with their family. Rehab would then need to be in a local setting. Because of my familiarity with healthcare I was fortunate to happen to cross paths with a colleague who gave me the phone number of Steve Paysinger, a long term Occupational Therapist who recently retired and was setting up a new non profit to help treat brain injury patients. Since that time we have been most fortunate to have Mr Paysinger work with Elyse these many months with absolutely wonderful results. His organization, Minds in Motion has been a God send for us. Without this option Elyse would have gone to Californiawith questionable outcomes. Respectfully Norman F. Gruber MHA