



January 25, 2023

To: Sen Prozanski, Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Katie Rose, Member, Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition
RE: Support for Senate Bill 528

Chair Prozanski, members of the committee, I'm Katie Rose, Executive Director of Oregon Community Brokerages, here to represent the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition).

The DD Coalition is a group of more than 40 organizations and individuals across Oregon that come together around our shared values outlined in statute: to support people with intellectual or developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination, living and working in the most integrated community settings, and providing services for families to raise their children at home.

The DD Coalition believes that Oregon is strongest when everyone has choice and control over their lives. The DD Coalition supports SB 528 because it strengthens the tools and supports Oregonians with IDD can use to lead self-determined lives.

It does this in several important ways:

SB 528 requires that the least restrictive alternatives appropriate for meeting a person's needs be explored prior to the appointment of a legal guardian or conservator. That can include the use of assistive technology, the appointment of a rep payee, power of attorney, or health care representative as well as other supports that encourage self-direction. Appointing a guardian has significant impacts on a person's rights. Exploring other options first is the right thing to do.



SB 528 defines, and also puts reasonable limits on, Supported Decision-Making. Having support in making decisions is natural—we all need help making decisions and rely on advice from friends, family, and professionals. This bill encourages those supports, while making clear that supporting a person to make decisions is not the same as making decisions for them.

SB 528 reinforces that guardianship should only be appointed in areas of life where need has been clearly demonstrated. Guardianship should be tailored to the needs of each person. This grants flexibility in the guardianship process, and allows people to grow their skills of self-direction even while they receive support where they need it.

Oregonians with disabilities should have the right to determine the course of their lives through their own choices to the fullest extent possible. We respectfully ask that you **pass SB 528** and support Oregonians with choice and control.