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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB729

I constantly get bounced around by therapists, counselors, and when I do find a good fit insurance seems to be the biggest barrier. I am talked down to and workers that do accept my insurance deny that I am disabled. (as I don't look or behave as such) and I am on the higher end of the spectrum of autism. Honestly I shouldn't have to hide my identity to get the care that I need and I should work with people who work with IDD trained services who are also informed of trauma.

Another person whom I know has been shuffled from Portland Adventist Hospital (OHSU) to Legacy's Unity Hospital and the hold was for only 2 days when they were upset about a med change. This person who was housed then in denial of care was kicked out of his home. When I believe that if the Mental Health Hospital Unity would have held him for a week or two. His housing wouldn't be put in jeopardy. He would have figured out coping mechanisms. We need to support care that can last longer than a week.

All people should have access to the services and supports they need to maintain their health. For years, people with intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) have been turned away from mental health supports for a variety of reasons, all of which point back to their diagnosis of developmental disability. SB 729 creates a general obligation to protect and allow equal access to mental health services Thank you for your attention to this matter