



Disability
Rights
Oregon

TO: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety
FROM: Disability Rights Oregon
DATE: February 21, 2025
RE: SB 5538 and POP #102

Co-chairs Broadman and Evans and members of the committee,

My name is Ben Gurewitz, I am a Public Policy Advocate at Disability Rights Oregon (DRO). Disability Rights Oregon is the State's Protection and Advocacy System which is charged with protecting, advocating and enforcing the rights of people with disabilities. We are writing in support of POP #102 to fund staffing to enforce the self-serve gas laws.

Oregon State Fire Marshal is charged with investigating fire pump safety laws. State law requires that gas stations make accommodations for people with disabilities who are not able to pump their own gas, but because of the way the law is written, the state views the Fire Marshal as the party responsible for enforcing disability accommodations at gas pumps.

During the interim, DRO had a constituent reach out to their legislator and to our office, complaining that they had difficulty getting full-service pumping as reasonable accommodation. The Fire Marshal's office did not provide a clear avenue for assisting the client, nor identify how to complain about denial of access to gas pumps. After intervention from our office, the state Department of Justice and the Fire Marshal's office investigated the matter. In the future, we hope that the process for handling, administering, and resolving these complaints will be faster and clearer.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.¹ We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and "pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies".² We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.³

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Ben Gurewitz 971-806-7908 or email him at bgurewitz@droregon.org

¹ See ORS 192.517.

² See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

³ See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).

