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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Marc Kochanski

March 10, 2025

To: The Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: SB 1123 Support

On behalf of Guardian Partners, I write to you in strong support of SB 1123, a bill that establishes immunity for Court Visitors acting in the scope of their duties.

Guardian Partners is a nonprofit founded to protect vulnerable Oregonians under guardianship care. Through dual programs of education for new guardians and case monitoring of guardianships, we seek to improve the lives of Protected Persons. This approach of training plus oversight has proven effective; it has driven our growth to serve 23 counties in Oregon.

We support SB 1123 as this Act would remove an unfair impediment, providing for Court Visitors immunity that is granted others in comparable roles. The Court Visitor has an important role, evaluating the cognitive ability of a person with disability and the appropriateness of guardianship. We see the need for more Court Visitors statewide and wish to remove, where possible, aspects of the role with may dissuade candidates.

We urge you to pass SB 1123 in this legislative session. I am available for testimony or additional information, as requested. We appreciate the Committee's time and work on this effort.

Sincerely,

Marc Kochanski
Executive Director
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