

Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

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A description of advocacy within the University

** I am happy to have a discussion with someone about the details of how the UCEDD has navigated and stepped into opportunities to amplify and help. Our approach is to help show how we can help.

The State of Oregon developed a special bill during an emergency session that was going to impact hospital operations. The UCEDD had been working at the community level to support to support the development of this bill. OHSU government relations nor the state hospital association were fully in favor of the legislation. The UCEDD was able to work internally and advocate to garner support and assist with educating why this legislation was important and needed.

Our role as a broker in this advocacy helped our larger institute, department advocacy chair, government relations, legal, ethics and patient advocacy to see a side of the issue in a new way.

This type of internal advocacy in time of crisis helped highlight the value that the UCEDD brings to the University and hospital system. We opened up a new path that has helped to elevate our umbrella Institute and showed the value of having a UCEDD that is involved in policy and deeply connected to the community.