

Secretary: Vote explanation please. Senator Boquist

“SB 578 is flat out a bad bill as it makes the guardianship problem worse not better in Oregon. Judge Holland’s testimony in OLIS outlines the extent of this huge problem in Oregon but concludes more lawyers are the answer. No, the answer is for the bar and courts to do a better job or be replaced themselves. My office sees monthly guardianship complaints from the individual themselves or an immediate family member. In every single situation the flagrant culprits are lawyers. In almost all situations the abuse is from the lawyer first representing the citizen then being appointed that citizen’s guardian by a judge. Making billable hours from more lawyers regardless of the payee, state or citizen, only exasperates the dismal situation well stated by Judge Holland in the committee testimony. Unfortunately, this Senator finds nothing comforting from DRO’s testimony as our experience from constituents is certain judges and lawyers are consistently and repeatedly violating the citizens’ rights. And the citizen, now a guardian, has their life savings goggled up by the lawyers. Likewise, complaints to the Oregon State Bar, which is supposed to regulate the practice of law simply, protects lawyers including a few bad judges per our constituents.”