



DISABILITY RIGHTS OREGON

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Portland, Oregon—Today, the U.S. Attorney’s Office and Disability Rights Oregon announced that they have reached an agreement providing Springfield, Oregon veteran Michael Williamson with continued in-home care services, at least through April 15, 2018. With this temporary extension of services in place, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will continue to seek a long-term solution to keep Mr. Williamson in his home.

Statement from The United States Attorney

“We are pleased to announce that the VA reached an agreement with New Horizons, a home health agency, to extend Mr. Williamson’s in-home care services in the short-term,” said Billy J. Williams, U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon. “We look forward to our continued work with the VA and Disability Rights Oregon to find a long-term solution that will provide care to and honored veteran in an integrated setting with the appropriate level of care to meet Mr. Williamson’s needs.”

Statement from Disability Rights Oregon

“This short-term extension of in-home benefits for Mr. Williamson is an important step forward. We will continue to work toward a permanent solution so that he can stay in his home not just beyond April, but for the long term, without the fear of being forced to live in a nursing home out-of-state,” said Emily Cooper, Legal Director for Disability Rights Oregon. “We’re hopeful that, in working with the U.S. Attorney and the VA, the VA will bridge the gaps in their system of community care so that the healthcare needs of veterans like Mr. Williamson are met in their communities.”

Statement from Michael Williamson

Knowing that I can stay in my home for at least another two months is a huge relief. But, my fight isn't over. Most people can't imagine what it feels like to be waiting to hear whether they will be forced out of their home to live hundreds of miles away in a nursing home just because a community provider decides to back out from providing care. The VA has been good to me and, yet again, I hope that the VA will be able to quickly identify other home care agencies that can fill in the gaps in their community care system. Every veteran, every person, should be able to stay in their homes and live in their communities surrounded by family and friends.

Additional resources:

- [Complaint](#)
- [Joint Motion to Withdraw Request for Temporary Restraining Order](#)

About Disability Rights Oregon

Disability Rights Oregon upholds the civil rights of people with disabilities to live, work, and engage in the community. The nonprofit works to transform systems, policies, and practices to give more people

the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. For 40 years, the organization has served as Oregon's Protection & Advocacy system.

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