

Petitioning Utah Governor

Protect the Rights and Freedoms of Utahns with Disabilities: Veto 2SHB 101



 Disability Law Center

212
Supporters

Dear Governor

Herbert,

The undersigned individuals and organizations respectfully ask you to seriously consider vetoing 2SHB 101: Disabled Adult Guardianship Amendments. We believe the zealous advocacy of independent counsel is absolutely crucial when a person's ability to make choices or exercise control over his or her life is at stake. There are also free or low-cost representation options already available, making the legislation unnecessary.

2SHB 101 leaves it up to a judge to decide whether a person with a disability and limited assets requires counsel when his or her parent(s) is seeking guardianship. We readily admit that, in a majority of cases, parents are likely to know their adult child's wishes and have their best interest at heart. However, parents of adult children with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum

disorder, or other disabilities are just like all other parents – some are great, some are not, some are overprotective, some are negligent, most are somewhere in the middle. The difference is what the current requirement is designed to detect and protect against.

2SHB 101 puts a proposed ward as well as a judge in a difficult position. If a parent(s) finds the guardianship process confusing and complex, what guarantees a proposed ward understands it? An attorney can help a proposed ward understand the process and what it may mean for him or her, as well as help a person express his or her wishes, strengths, skills, and needs. At the same time, the proceedings can be just as challenging for a judge. Rarely does an initial application for guardianship contain enough information on which he or she can reasonably base a decision concerning a proposed ward's ability to benefit from counsel. Additionally, he or she often relies on information from attorneys on both sides to help him or her decide whether a guardianship is necessary and, if so, what its appropriate scope should be.

Finally, finding and paying for counsel is often cited by parents as a barrier to obtaining guardianship. However, Utah's new Guardianship Signature Program provides pro bono or low bono representation to a proposed ward if he or she does not have counsel of his or her own choosing. At last count, 27 attorneys have volunteered, with several more in process. The program also utilizes students from the SJ Quinney College of Law working with an attorney advisor. Since it began in April, the Signature Program has placed 34 of 35 cases with participating private attorneys. Recognizing that a powerful motivation for the legislation is a frustration with the cost of the process, several professional and community organizations have committed to raising awareness, building the capacity,

and simplifying the operation of the program across the state in coming years.

Again, because it has the potential to unnecessarily undermine the fundamental freedoms and individual rights enjoyed by Utahns with disabilities, please veto 2SHB 101: Disabled Adult Guardianship Amendments. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. If you have questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

change.org
Disability Law Center

Recipient: Utah Governor

Letter: Greetings,

Protect the rights and freedoms of Utahns with disabilities: please veto 2SHB 101. We believe the zealous advocacy of independent counsel is absolutely crucial when a person's ability to make choices or exercise control over his or her life is at stake. There are also free or low-cost representation options already available, making the legislation unnecessary.

Signatures

Name	Location	Date
Andrew Riggle	, United States	2016-03-15
Nicholas Daskalas	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Melissa Gifford	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Robyn Emery	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Amberly Dattilo	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Pamela Hansen	South Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Evelyn Owen	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Johnny McCoy	Santaquin, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Nedra Wright Loyola	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Gordon Richins	Logan, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Annie Wahlen	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Heather Merkley	Ogden, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Marco Brown	Sandy, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Brian Parnell	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Sallie Richardson	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Stephanie Hore	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Meghan Draper	Provo, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Jay Henrie	Sandy, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Sara Baron	Santaquin, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Tracy Bytendorp	Draper, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Eric Stoker	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Sean Umipig	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Nicholas Jackson	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
carolyn ewell	altamont, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Melanie Carlson	Smithfield, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Susan Harms	Roy, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Sheri Newton	Trenton, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Adam Daniel Spencer	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Bryce Fifield	Logan, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Margo Thurman	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15

Name	Location	Date
Karla Stoker	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Debra Johansson	Lindon, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Jamie Winn	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Donald Whimpey	Lehi, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Gina Money	South Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Melinda Thornton	Ogden, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Shonna Smiley	Ogden, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Sara Anderson	Hyrum, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Cody Sheffer	Smithfield, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Jesse DeHay	Ogden, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Leilani Whitmer	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Gregory Misener	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Michael Chidester	Cedar City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Kellie Simmons	Sandy, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Lisa Wade	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Mathew Bone	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Leslie Francis	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Linda Jorgensen	Roy, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Mary Anne Davies	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Lisa Sheffer	Smithfield, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Heather Towndrow	Price, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Jennifer Archer	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Timothy Hurty	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Brenda Harris	Smithfield, UT, United States	2016-03-15
David Thomas	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Stephanie Roach	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Langdon Owen	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Timothy Lewis	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Laurel Romney	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Everette Bacon President, NFB of Utah	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
RobRoy Platt	Alpine, UT, United States	2016-03-15

Name	Location	Date
Shelley Smith	Park City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Tiffany Thorne	Bountiful, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Sunny Todhunter	Provo, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Claudette Felice	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Sarah Winkelkotter	Pleasant Grove, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Kristina Cottle	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Elizabeth LeFevre	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Sheryl Ginsberg	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Steven McNeil	Saint George, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Robert Jones	American Fork, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Richard Taylor	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
D Christopher Larson	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Hughes Craig	North Salt Lake, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Linda Hansen	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Nate Marsden	American Fork, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Betty Loveless	Orem, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Meagan Kemp	Draper, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Melissa Wheeler	Farmington, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Tammi Hall	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Christy Schell	Kaysville, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Marsha McLean	Provo, UT, United States	2016-03-15
Donna McCormick	Woods Cross, UT, United States	2016-03-16
WAYNE CONNORS	Saint George, UT, United States	2016-03-16
ginger west	St. George, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Helen Post	Sandy, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Stephanie Sorenson	Hyrum, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Ann Marie Spendlove	Smithfield, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Michelle Murphey	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Stacy Stanford	SLC, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Melisa Genaux	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Tina Johnson	Kanab, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Erin Hough	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16

Name	Location	Date
Catherine Goodrich	North Salt Lake, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Deborah Earl	Logan, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Carin Cushing	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Janey King	Sussex, NJ, United States	2016-03-16
Aimee Diaz	Midvale, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Ronda Schuster	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Kayci Lynam	Riverton, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Amanda Freeman	West Valley City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Katrina Thomsen	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Cindy Kenney	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Laurie Fifield	Logan, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Mike Jayme	Price, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Danielle Michaud	Farmington, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Valerie Metcalf	Sandy, UT, United States	2016-03-16
David Melville	Salt Lake, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Jean Bramble	Escalante, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Denise McCabe	Elko, NV, United States	2016-03-16
Heather Fisher	Draper, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Jeanie Pettit	Herriman, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Heather Carter-Jenkins	South Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Susan Ord	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
MerryAnn Crofts	Layton, UT, United States	2016-03-16
sasha gorham	salt lake city, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Bonnie Perkins	Beaver, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Vicki Vandenberghe	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Wilbur Dattilo	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Rulon Hansen	Eagle Mountain, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Rebekah Peterson	Alpine, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Kristin waite	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Rebecca Lee	Tooele, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Diane Blythe	Payson, UT, United States	2016-03-16
James Carroll	South Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-16

Name	Location	Date
Paul Newman	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Concerned Citizen	New City, NY, United States	2016-03-16
Lynda Hansen	Draper, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Shamby Polychronis	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
nichole davis	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Karl Miller	Ogden, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Amy Notwell	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Diana Ballesteros	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Jessica Bowman	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Kimberly Graham	Logan, UT, United States	2016-03-16
AdreAnn Sundurd	Provo, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Eric Anderson	Hyrum, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Kristen Hone	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Carolyn Reese	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
LauraLee Gillespie	Riverton, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Lizzy Coleman	Orem, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Trevor Buit	Provo, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Matthew Downing	Springville, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Jennie Gibson	Grantsville, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Adam Weber	Hood River, OR, United States	2016-03-16
Marilee Coles-Ritchie	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Jeff Sheen	Millville, UT, United States	2016-03-16
George Joeckel	Hyde Park, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Lauren Leatham	Logan, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Skip Rynearson	Orem, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Adina Zahradnikova	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Ashley Gurling	Bountiful, UT, United States	2016-03-16
colin coker	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Kelleen Smith	Richmond, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Evan Young	West Chester, OH, United States	2016-03-16
Susan Olsen	Smithfield, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Jennifer Gee	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16

Name	Location	Date
Angela Erickson	Park City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Vicki Clayson	Centerville, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Dexter Thomas	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Jerry Miles	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Robyn Mulcahy	Sandy, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Jann Pugmire	Logan, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Maureen Henry	Sandy, UT, United States	2016-03-16
Istenya Hurty	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Dora Johnson	Sandy, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Carrie Bambrough	Ogden, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Amy Henningsen	Providence, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Catherine Oconnor	Lehi, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Rosalie Winard	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Kourtney Layton-Little	Sandy, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Amy Firestone	Midvale, UT, United States	2016-03-17
vivian karoll	salt lake city, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Faaeteete Apelu	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Daurie Bastian	Logan, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Christine Evans	Tooele, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Trent Herbert	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-17
emily mouritsen	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Jon Owen	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Ellen Goldberg	SLC, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Mary Fran Draisker	Springville, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Karla Pardue	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-17
C. Dickerson	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Ariel Calmes	Evanston, WY, United States	2016-03-17
Storee Powell	Logan, UT, United States	2016-03-17
Stacy Taylor	Saratoga Springs, United States Minor Outlying Islands	2016-03-17
Tammy Brown	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-18
Heidi Lins	Midvale, UT, United States	2016-03-18

Name	Location	Date
angelique morrill	Slc, UT, United States	2016-03-18
Amber Jensen	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-18
Christine HIGUERIA-STREET	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-18
Teo Popa	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-18
Mike Dean	Ogden, UT, United States	2016-03-18
Traci Barney	Roy, UT, United States	2016-03-18
Richard Pearson	Centerville, UT, United States	2016-03-18
Sally Steele	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-18
Melissa Helquist	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-18
M. Maree Webb	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-18
Grant Pemberton	Santa Clara, UT, United States	2016-03-18
Melissa Baldwin	Saint George, UT, United States	2016-03-18
Haley Brock	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-18
Brant Christiansen	American Fork, UT, United States	2016-03-19
Jenn Anderson	Bountiful, UT, United States	2016-03-19
Tara Merrill	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-19
Nancy Merrill	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-19
Jan brock	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-19
Tia Dunn	Salt Lake City, UT, United States	2016-03-19
Julia Pearce	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-19
kara larsen	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-20
John Tangren	Sandy, UT, United States	2016-03-21
Kim Eaton	West Jordan, UT, United States	2016-03-21
Katherine Crabtree	Sandy, UT, United States	2016-03-21

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Robyn Emery	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-15	I work in the behavioral Health field and I have seen young people who have needed representation and would have been very unjustly treated if they had not been able to have an attorney available during the guardianship process. I know of one right now that would suffer if not given the opportunity to be represented by an attorney. Like this letter says, there are good parents and not so good ones. Don't let the children of the not so good suffer.
Evelyn Owen	West Jordan, UT	2016-03-15	Representation should be provided when a person is at risk of losing choice and freedom.
Johnny McCoy	Santaquin, UT	2016-03-15	Keeping as much in the hands of people with disabilities as possible is a matter of hope and independence.
Gordon Richins	Logan, UT	2016-03-15	This is really unnecessary and foolish. There are already steps and a process in place.
Marco Brown	Sandy, UT	2016-03-15	I'm an attorney who has worked with this population for many years. I have seen families take advantage of their intellectually impaired children on many occasions. This is the most vulnerable population in Utah, and these individuals should be afforded safeguards for their freedom.
Brian Parnell	Bakersfield, CA	2016-03-15	Advocacy in the judicial system for people with disabilities is essential. It should be required in instances where a court is considering restricting their rights for self-determination.
Sallie Richardson	Taylorsville, UT	2016-03-15	Grandson with Disabilities.
Tracy Bytendorp	Draper, UT	2016-03-15	Because I am standing up to be heard for Ericka Bytendorp that is my daughter, she has Down syndrome and is not heard.
Sean Umipig	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-15	A proposed ward is still a person with a voice, and desires of his/her own. Having an advocate will ensure that the ward's voice will be heard.
Nicholas Kerr-Jackson	Brooklyn, NY	2016-03-15	EVERYBODY deserves due process.
Sheri Newton	Trenton, UT	2016-03-15	Any person who may stand to lose the right to make basic life choices afforded to all adults, should be represented by counsel. The legislature previously reduced the court costs and have provided a program to defray the cost of counsel. Don't take rights away without proper representation.
Adam Daniel Spencer	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-15	As an attorney and private guardian ad litem, all too frequently I see parents who act without regard for their children's best interest. It is incredibly naive to think that parents are automatically acting in the best interests of their children when they try to take away that adult child's fundamental legal rights. Frankly, I am not convinced that this bill is even necessary. Low or no cost attorneys for adult children can be found through the following: 1)Guardianship Signature Program initiative through the Third District Court; 2)low-cost options such as Open Legal Services, Nonprofit Legal Services of Utah, or the Utah State Bar's Modest Means Referral Program; 3) Utah's Legal Aid organizations who can take these cases at no cost to low-income prospective guardians. The financial burden on parents is nowhere near as severe as proponents of this bill have let on. If this bill is signed into law, it is very likely that within the first year we will see cases of overprotective or misinformed parents gaining guardianship over adult children who, while limited in their outward functioning, should not have their rights to self determination stripped away without zealous and independent representation.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Karla Stoker	West Jordan, UT	2016-03-15	I am signing because no one is more vulnerable than an individual with disabilities. If we considered taking this right away from anyone else there would be an uproar that our constitutional rights were being taken away. We should not go down this dangerous road of determining who should and shouldn't have this right under the law.
Margo Thurman	SLC, UT	2016-03-15	2SHB 101 puts a proposed ward as well as a judge in a difficult position. If a parent(s) finds the guardianship process confusing and complex, what guarantees a proposed ward understands it? An attorney can help a proposed ward understand the process and what it may mean for him or her, as well as help a person express his or her wishes, strengths, skills, and needs. At the same time, the proceedings can be just as challenging for a judge. Rarely does an initial application for guardianship contain enough information on which he or she can reasonably base a decision concerning a proposed ward's ability to benefit from counsel. Also, Finally, finding and paying for counsel is often cited by parents as a barrier to obtaining guardianship. Again, because it has the potential to unnecessarily undermine the fundamental freedoms and individual rights enjoyed by Utahns with disabilities, please veto 2SHB 101: Disabled Adult Guardianship Amendments. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.
Debra Johansson	Lindon, UT	2016-03-15	As a post secondary high school Transition Specialist, I help connect individuals with disabilities with adult services. I see way too many parents taking advantage of their adult child with disabilities. This would magnify that problem.
Jamie Winn	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-15	I work in the disability field and I am against 2SHB 101. It would negatively impact the lives of many people within the disability community.
Donald Whimpey	Lehi, UT	2016-03-15	I'm signing this because I have been disabled and been in the situations were I believe 2SHB 101 is just duplicating what we have and a person or family with someone disabled in there home can get very confused if they have to many choice or answers that it becomes very confusing to them.
Gina Money	South Jordan, UT	2016-03-15	Protecting young adults with disabilities!
Shonna Smiley	Ogden, UT	2016-03-15	I am a social worker in the field of disabilities and promote the right for individuals with various disabilities to make choices and to determine their lives. They need representation for themselves in regards to issues of guardianship to promote their rights and independence or lack of independence.
Cody Sheffer	Smithfield, UT	2016-03-15	Persons with disabilities have rights and freedoms we enjoy. This only hurts this right.
Leilani Whitmer	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-15	Because the process is confusing, how can we expect the potential ward to understand it? Everybody deserves due process, and this underprivileged population needs to be protected from fraud and abuse.
Lisa Wade	West Jordan, UT	2016-03-15	I'm signing because I feel it is important that those who are least able to represent themselves should have representation in the legal process, especially when dealing with their rights.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Linda Jorgensen	Roy, UT	2016-03-15	<p>Dear Governor Herbert,</p> <p>I am signing this petition requesting you veto 2SHB 101. I am a parent/guardian of a disabled adult who has been through the guardianship process I speak from personal experience when I say we would NOT have gone through this process without our child having her own representation. She was able to ask her own questions, make her wishes known, and benefitted from an experienced lawyer by her side to assist her through the proceedings during our time in court. This was not something we her parents could do. The judge had questions best answered by our daughter and her legal counsel, our daughter had questions also best answered by her legal counsel and we as parents had counsel there to ensure all questions were answered and rights protected. For ALL parties involved. These children need representation! Finding experienced representation is not difficult if you know where to look. It is also not as costly as some would make out. It is a simple matter of making counsel information more available to the public. Frankly, vetoing 2SHB 101 makes better sense.</p> <p>Linda Jorgensen Executive Director Special Needs Resource Project</p>
Lisa Sheffer	Smithfield, UT	2016-03-15	I'm signing because people with disabilities should be able to make all the decisions they can, without having a judge involved.
Jennifer Chidester	Salem, UT	2016-03-15	Everyone deserves the right to due process and as much independence as possible.
David and Bonnie Thomas	SLC, UT	2016-03-15	People with intellectual disabilities deserve protection from unscrupulous people (including family) that might take advantage of them. If anything, the state should provide attorney representation at no cost to the population of people being protected!
Stephanie Roach	West Jordan, UT	2016-03-15	Please protect the civil rights of the disabled. There are cost effective and free ways for them to be represented by an attorney.
RobRoy Platt	Alpine, UT	2016-03-15	<p>Please veto 2SHB 101. This is a well-meaning proposal, but it misses the mark. As an attorney who represents both petitioners and incapacitated persons in guardianship and conservatorship cases on a fairly regular basis, I have see far too often attempts by overzealous or overbearing parents to control their adult children. It is important that these children understand their rights and have someone who is disinterested and knowledgeable educate them and advocate for them. Attorneys are a necessity in every case to ensure that due process is preserved for the most vulnerable in our society. I am also a volunteer with the Guardianship Signature Program and know that the program needs to be more fully utilized before we go down the path that 2SHB 101 lays out. We have appropriate programs in place. Let's focus our efforts on improving the use of those programs rather than start stripping away important protections that are essential to preserve the liberties that we are all entitled to. Thank you.</p>
Tiffany Thorne	Salt lake city, UT	2016-03-15	<p>Marginalized populations like persons with disabilities are especially vulnerable to violence and abuse. At the juncture in question the rights of these adults ought to be properly represented. Adulthood is frequently when many community members escape their abusers. By removing this protection, voices of adults with disabilities are made quiet and they remain susceptible to harm. It is in the interest of the health of the community that I am against 2SHB101.</p>

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Sunny Todhunter	Provo, UT	2016-03-15	People with disabilities and their allies have fought long and hard to win basic civil rights; enactment of 2SHB 101 would be an enormous and tragic step backward in this battle. Governor Herbert - please veto this irresponsible piece of legislation.
Sheryl Ginsberg	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-15	As a Retired Social Worker, with extensive work experience in this field, I beg you to veto this harmful bill.
Robert Jones	American Fork, UT	2016-03-15	I am in support of those with disabilities, just as we all should be.
Richard Taylor	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-15	Mental health is a serious issue with only the end consequences, gun violence, etc., being addressed.
D Christopher Larson	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-15	I believe that for an individual to lose the right to make their own choices, they deserve to be represented
Meagan Kemp	Draper, UT	2016-03-15	I have a special needs child!!
Christy Schell	Kaysville, UT	2016-03-15	For my grandson
WAYNE CONNORS	Saint George, UT	2016-03-16	We teach classes for the families of the mentally ill. We need more help, not less
Michelle Murphey	Taylorsville, UT	2016-03-16	Please protect the rights of disabled individuals! They are people too, and they deserve to maintain their rights to a lawyer. Its nice to think that parents would never take advantage of their children, but this is not always the case. I have been involved with some cases where it was not in the best interest of the adult to have their parent be the guardian. Don't take away the civil rights of a person just to make the process easier. We must protect the civil rights of all adults.
Erin Hough	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-16	This bill scares me. Without an attorney to look out for their best interests, I worry that people with disabilities will be exploited or abused. Please veto this bill!
catherine goodrich	pleasant grove, UT	2016-03-16	Disability rights
Deborah Earl	Logan, UT	2016-03-16	You crazy people are asking folks with child mentalities to make adult decisions. Here is a thought, would you make a 4 year old to make adult decisions, like pilot the space shuttle? I think not. If we as parents and care givers can not help speak for our most precious family members and clients, then they will be lost and/or taken advantage of. We are their voices. There are going to be a few that are not good advocates but most of us are the very best advocates for our family members or clients. So just remember, we love them and will give our lives for them!!!!
Laurie Fifield	Logan, UT	2016-03-16	The disability Law Center has been working hard to advocate for people with disabilities. If they disagree with this law, I am with them fully.
MerryAnn Crofts	Layton, UT	2016-03-16	people with disability needs help and taking away "Rights" is very mean. SSI helps And Are deserved They have worked hard for years for IT!!
Bonnie Perkins	Beaver, UT	2016-03-16	I am disabled.
Rebecca Lee	Tooele, UT	2016-03-16	My child and I deserve representation and counsel in the guardianship process.
Diane Blythe	Payson, UT	2016-03-16	My son and I deserve proper representation and quality counsel in the guardianship process
Paul Newman	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-16	I'm signing because I have previously served as legal counsel for proposed wards with a disability and strongly believe that it is an important protection for all involved in the process.
Eric Anderson	Hyrum, UT	2016-03-16	Personal liberties are important.
LauraLee Gillespie	Bluffdale, UT	2016-03-16	I do not think anyone should have rights taken away without independent counsel with no vested interest!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Lizzy Coleman	Orem, UT	2016-03-16	Every child with disability needs their rights protected.
Trevor Buit	Provo, UT	2016-03-16	I am a serving member of the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council. We've worked hard to prevent the passage of this legislation, as we feel it is a step in the wrong direction. The council has verified the availability of free and no-cost representation that is sufficient for this state's need. Why pass such this, when it is so open to abuse...even when such abuse is unintended?
Jennie Gibson	Grantsville, UT	2016-03-16	I believe there would be some cases where the ward's rights would be abused under this bill. Now that we have the Signature program the cost of representation of the ward should not be an issue for low income families.
Marilee Coles-Ritchie	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-16	People with disabilities deserve human rights and dignity.
Adina Zahradnikova	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-16	People with disabilities have the right to meaningful access to justice.
Susan Olsen	Smithfield, UT	2016-03-16	I believe in the right to independent counsel for all individuals including persons with disability.
Jennifer Gee	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-16	I have worked with individuals with disabilities and their families for over 25 years. Most of the parents and family members I have met are some of the hardest-working, amazing people you could hope to find. Unfortunately, however, even if it is only a small percentage of caregivers who are abusive and exploitative, it is this population who is particularly vulnerable to that exploitation and abuse. The legal representation that allows them to have assistance in a court case that may so intimately impact so many details of their life should not be taken away. The guardianship signature program and other low- or no-cost options exist, and work. Guardianship should be an accessible option for families, but no individual - not even an individual with a profound disability - should have their legal rights taken away from them without representation. Please veto 2SHB 101. This legislation has a good intention at its heart, but is both unnecessary and flawed in its direction. It is not the best way to help caregivers of adults with disabilities.
Vicki Clayson	Centerville, UT	2016-03-16	Individuals have the right to a clear understanding of their rights.
Jerry Miles	West Jordan, UT	2016-03-16	I believe all people need representation and our vulnerable people are no exception
Robyn Mulcahy	Sandy, UT	2016-03-16	As a parent with guardianship for my son I feel it is important that his rights to an attorney remain intact. Others in similar circumstances deserve the same respect.
Maureen Henry	Sandy, UT	2016-03-17	I'm signing this because adults with disabilities deserve to have an attorney to protect their rights. I am an attorney and have witnessed abuse of guardianships.
Carrie Bambrough	Ogden, UT	2016-03-17	I believe that all people, regardless of their disability, should have proper representation when it comes to determine if someone else should be assigned as their guardian and allowed certain control over that person's rights.
Kourtney Layton-Little	Sandy, UT	2016-03-17	Persons with disabilities deserve to have informed choice and retain the ability to choose for themselves.
Amy Firestone	Midvale, UT	2016-03-17	I am a special education teacher and want the best outcomes for my students.
Jon Owen	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-17	I think the 2015 Guardianship bill and Guardianship Signature program have improved the process and should be given the opportunity to work. People with disabilities should have a right to counsel, particularly at such a crucial time in their lives.
Ellen Goldberg	SLC, UT	2016-03-17	Please veto this unnecessary legislation. It undermines freedom and individual liberty.
Mary Fran Draisker	Springville, UT	2016-03-17	I have raised a disabled son.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Tammy Brown	West Valley City, UT	2016-03-18	My Grandchildren both have Autism I am also Disabled
Heidi Lins	Midvale, UT	2016-03-18	I have 4 children with disabilities.
Christine HIGUERIA-STREET	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-18	This proposed legislation is ethically and morally wrong.
Traci Barney	Roy, UT	2016-03-18	I believe that people with a disability no matter the severity should have representation when life decisions are being made.
Maree Webb	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-03-18	I am a person with a disability. I do not want it to be easier for someone to have guardianship over me if I cannot speak for my self, family notwithstanding. I WANT TO BE SURE THAT MY RIGHTS ARE NOT BEING VIOLATED. I know that attorney representation helps to make that happen. I also know that there are already services available to provide free representation for prospective wards if needed.
Grant Pemberton	Santa Clara, UT	2016-03-18	While caretakers are most often good-hearted and well-meaning, research has also shown that they are the most likely to abuse those who are disabled and in their care. Removing this right to an attorney exasperates this problem and disempowers those with disabilities. Empowerment and self-efficacy is crucial to good mental health and independence. Let's not take that away from our disabled population. Let's not take away one of the few rights/abilities they currently have. Veto this bill.
Melissa Baldwin	Saint George, UT	2016-03-18	My child has the right to have an attorney present to represent their best interests!
Brant Christiansen	American Fork, UT	2016-03-19	Judges make these decisions in literally minutes. An adversarial process is the only way to keep the rights of these individuals protected and there are many low or no cost options available.