

## A Global Disability Resource and Advocacy Center

ONTARIO

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## Date: March 13, 2019

To: The Oregon Legislature, House of Representatives Committee of Human Services and Housing Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair 900 Court St. NE Room H-272 Salem OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 3122

Honorable Chair Kenny-Guyer and Committee Members:

As the chief executive officer of Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living (EOCIL), I am writing to request your support for House Bill 3122.

The EOCIL Board of Directors, representing consumers with disabilities residing in 13 counties, authorized me to sign Oregon's State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL: 2016 – 2019). The goals present in the Oregon SPIL are the direct inspiration for HB 3122.

 HB 3122 does not have resources attached to it. It requires the Department of Human Services and Governor to plan for the needs of Oregon's Independent Living Program and Oregonians with disabilities the program serves.

- HB 3122 is a response to the service needs and funding vision embodied in Oregon's 2016 2019 SPIL.
- HB 3122 seeks to provide parity in funding growth for peer-based Independent Living Services to benefit the almost 600,000+ persons with disabilities served by CILs.
- HB 3122 provides a strong foundation and compliments supports services offered by Oregon's Department of Aging & People with Disabilities, and Oregon's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
- HB 3122 is a well-reasoned commitment to expand CIL service capacity to reach 5% of people with disabilities over a 10-year period (2019 2029), and to extend CIL services statewide during that period.

As a person living with disabilities and signatory to Oregon's State Plan for Independent Living, I respectfully request your support for HB 3122. This landmark legislation will enhance independence for persons with disabilities in Oregon for generations to come!

Respectfully Submitted, W. Kirt Toombs, MMDS Chief Executive Officer