

## Consumer Support for Oregon House Bill 3122

*The following is respectfully submitted to be included in the Public Record as supplemental Public Comment to hearings held in March 2019 re HB 3122*

March 15, 2019

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

Honorable Chair Kenny-Guyer and Committee Members:

As a person who experiences a disability and many barriers to living independently in the community, I am helped every day as a result of working with my peer counselor at Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living.

Without assistance from EOCIL to get community supports, to learn new skills and enhance my independence,

I would not have had access to or known of any of the services available to someone with HIV in this state.

Even knowing what may have been available it would have been much harder to navigate on my own without the help of EOCIL and those who collaborate with them.

EOCIL has been a great help to me as not only a resource but also a haven of friendship and trust. A place I can count on for support and guidance. It's continuance and the continuance of it's partner organizations are and should be a priority for all people, not just those with disabilities. We all affect the lives of those around us and are more able to do so in a positive fashion when we have the support we need to function well in our daily lives. EOCIL and CILs overall help us to achieve that daily and more readily.

There are more than 600,000+ people with disabilities in Oregon and we all can benefit from independent living services offered at Oregon CILs. Please support passage of House Bill 3122 that would require 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.

**PLEASE SUPPORT & CHAMPION HB 3122!**

Respectfully Submitted, Kevin J. Castle

County: Umatilla