



**Endorsement of 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

[Rep.AlissaKenyGuyer@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.AlissaKenyGuyer@oregonlegislature.gov)

Honorable Chair Kenny-Guyer and Committee Members:

As Umpqua Valley disAbilities Network's (UVdN) Executive Director from Roseburg, Oregon, I am writing to you to speak out in support of House Bill 3122:

*Requires Department of Human Services to request in agency request budget and Governor to include in Governor's budget specified amount of General Fund moneys for distribution to centers for independent living.*

The UVdN Board of Directors and the consumers with disabilities whose interests they represent empowered me to sign Oregon's State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL: 2016 – 2019) as developed by the governor's State Independent Living Council (SILC), in collaboration with Oregon's seven Centers for Independent Living (CILs), and approved by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Administration for Community Living (ACL). The funding goals present in the Oregon SPIL are the direct inspiration for HB 3122.

- 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 people with disabilities across the age and disability spectrums 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 expanding 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 signatory to Oregon's State Plan for independent Living, I ask your support for

- parity for peer-based CIL safety net funding for people with disabilities and
- investment in the basic civil rights of the often disenfranchised people with disabilities in Oregon.

I ask each committee member, and Chair Keny-Guyer, to sign on as a supporter and champion for HB 3122. This landmark legislation will help to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities on Oregon for generations to come!

"Nothing about us without us!"

Sincerely,



Matt Droscher, Executive Director, [matt@uvdn.org](mailto:matt@uvdn.org), 541.672.6336

CC: [Rep.RonNoble@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.RonNoble@oregonlegislature.gov)  
[Rep.TawnaSanchez@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.TawnaSanchez@oregonlegislature.gov)  
[Rep.CheriHelt@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.CheriHelt@oregonlegislature.gov)  
[Rep.MarkMeek@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.MarkMeek@oregonlegislature.gov)  
[Rep.TiffanyMitchell@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.TiffanyMitchell@oregonlegislature.gov)  
[Rep.SheriSchouten@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.SheriSchouten@oregonlegislature.gov)  
[Rep.AnnaWilliams@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.AnnaWilliams@oregonlegislature.gov)  
[Rep.JackZika@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.JackZika@oregonlegislature.gov)

# House Bill 3122

Sponsored by Representative NOSSE

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Department of Human Services to request in agency request budget and Governor to include in Governor's budget specified amount of General Fund moneys for distribution to centers for independent living.

Sunset July 1, 2029.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to centers for independent living.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislative Assembly to ensure sustainable funding**  
5 **for centers for independent living to assist Oregon's diverse population of older adults and**  
6 **people with disabilities to achieve well-being through opportunities for community living,**  
7 **employment, family support and services that promote independence, choice and dignity. The**  
8 **Legislative Assembly further finds that centers for independent living require a minimum**  
9 **funding level of \$40 million in total General Fund moneys, federal funds and other funds to**  
10 **ensure program stability and the provision of independent living services in all 36 Oregon**  
11 **counties.**

12 **(2) In each biennium beginning July 1, 2021, the Department of Human Services shall in-**  
13 **clude in its agency request budget filed under ORS 291.208, and the Governor shall include**  
14 **in the Governor's budget required under ORS 291.202, incremental increases in the appro-**  
15 **priations from the General Fund so that, by the end of the biennium ending June 30, 2029,**  
16 **the department may distribute moneys to the centers for independent living in this state no**  
17 **less than a total of \$40 million in General Fund moneys, federal funds and other funds.**

18 **(3) As used in this section, "center for independent living" has the meaning given that**  
19 **term in 29 U.S.C. 796a.**

20 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2019 Act is repealed on July 1, 2029.**

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**NOTE:** Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.



## The Case for Urgently Needed Legislative Action

### The Issue:

DHS Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) serves as the designated state entity (DSE) for Oregon's Independent Living Program. The DSE does not advocate for IL funding, and thus Centers for Independent Living have lacked a mechanism to secure sustainable funding to provide mandated core services. Existing funding levels (\$3,826,928 Total Funds per Biennium) have created a state of emergency and are significantly below required funding levels (\$40,621,356 Total Funds per biennium) as established in the State Plan for Independent Living.

### The Request:

**Declaring a state emergency, the Oregon Legislature shall assure direct and sustained funding to Oregon's Centers for Independent at a level of \$40 million per biennium, in order to build capacity to provide critical Independent Living services to 5% of the disability population in Oregon.**

### The Case:

- Almost 15% of Oregonians (600,000 people) experience a disability. Half are between the ages of 21 to 64, not served by youth or senior programs.
- The 7 Centers for Independent Living (CILs) across Oregon provide peer-based services to people with disabilities, with a focus on consumer choice, self-advocacy, and individual self-determination. The return on public funds invested in Independent Living is significant - empowering people with disabilities to move from reliance to resilience, and to participate fully in community life.
- CILs are cross-disability and cross-service, providing critical support for people with disabilities to access the resources they require to achieve greater independence. Proportionate support for critical program partners such as CILs allows them to keep pace with growing agencies and to complement and support state service objectives and program outcomes. This right-sizing of program partners leverages their unique role in the community and provides the greatest return on the investment of state dollars.
- While Oregon is estimated to be home to more than half a million people with disabilities, our needs are frequently overlooked in the kinds of sector transformations that the State Legislature and the Governor are hoping to launch over the next several biennia. CILs therefore serve as a key partner, through ongoing systems advocacy and state engagement, to provide a unique and critical lens into the needs of the disability community across Oregon, and to help close the gap in programs and services that people with disabilities in Oregon often experience.
- Through a combination of state and federal grant funds, CILs currently receive a little more than **\$2 million per year to serve approximately 30,000 consumers**. In contrast, DHS Aging and People with Disabilities received a total of **3.54 billion in 2017-2019 to serve 35,000 Oregonians**.
- The CIL GF budget is approximately one—tenth of one percent (.12%) of APD's GF budget to provide essential complementary services at a fraction of the cost.