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March 1, 2021

To: Rep Williams, Chair, House Committee on Human Services
From: Katie Rose, Executive Director, Oregon Support Services Association

RE: Support for HB 3116--study and make recommendation for new funding structure for community developmental disabilities programs

Chair Williams and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Support Services Association is comprised of the 14 Support Service Brokerages across Oregon. We serve nearly 8,000 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) living in their own or family homes in every community throughout the state.

Oregon's IDD case managers support people with IDD with information, navigation support, advocacy, and resources needed to be full members of their communities and live the life they choose. People with IDD often need an extra layer of support to interact successfully with local community law enforcement, legal systems, medical services, and general community resources. Case management is there along the way to support the best outcomes.

As members of the IDD case management workforce, we know that funding is inextricably tied to service quality. When we cannot employ or retain enough staff to do this relationship-based work, the work suffers, and so do the people who rely upon it. In the IDD community's systemwide stakeholder efforts to improve IDD case management, funding methodology reform has been noted as one of the necessary components for consideration. Along with other recommended actions, this bill will help to support a healthy IDD case management system.

We are pleased to see the funding reform process supported in HB 3116, and will look for a way to include Support Service Brokerages in the development of recommendations. We believe that funding should incentivize person-centered, quality case management in an equitable manner for all people receiving supports. Thoughtfully restructured funding is a necessary component of the work to elevate the case management experience of Oregonians with IDD.