

Oregon Resource Association

2405 Front St. NE, Suite 150 | Salem, OR 97301
(503) 585-3337 | oregonresource.org



Date: February 3, 2021
To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Oregon Resource Association
Re.: Support for HB 2151

Chair Holvey and members of the Committee, the Oregon Resource Association (ORA) wishes to voice its support for HB 2151.

As a national leader in supported employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), the state of Oregon has done a stellar job advocating and supporting community integrated employment for this important community. Since the adoption of its Employment First policy in 2008, Oregon has transformed its provider system and facilitated the transition of more than a thousand workers from sheltered employment to jobs with Oregon companies. ORA's members are proud of the support they have played in this effort.

However, as employers, Oregon state agencies still lag behind private industry when it comes to employing people with I/DD. The task force enacted by HB 2151 will be a good first step in exploring how to best level out this discrepancy. More importantly, it will help ensure that the state lives up to and models the ideals set forth in Employment First.

As the largest association representing and supporting providers of I/DD services, ORA encourages you to support the passage of HB 2151. We welcome any opportunities to support the task force once it begins its important work, as well as any questions you may have regarding our support for the bill.

Sincerely,

Corey Jeppesen

Director of Employment Services
Oregon Resource Association