



Advancing Opportunities

February 3, 2021

To: Sen Gelsler, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

From: Katie Rose, Chair, Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: Support for SB 90, Exempting from public disclosure addresses of individuals with IDD residing in adult foster homes, residential training facilities or residential training homes.

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Chair Gelsler and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is a group of approximately 40 organizations and individuals across Oregon that come together to advocate for the services to further the values outlined in ORS 427.007: to support people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) to exercise self-determination, living and working in the most integrated community settings, and providing services for families to raise their children at home. Our members represent advocacy groups (including self-advocacy organizations), family peer supports, DD residential providers, DD supported employment providers, and Support Services Brokerages.

We all deserve to feel safe, secure, and in control of our home space. Controlling who has access to our contact information is a default right for most Oregonians, who may make their own decisions about when to share information, and with whom. Oregon's IDD group homes, foster care, and other funded residential service settings are people's homes. These homes are a place to keep safe their most precious belongings, a place to return after work or errands, and a place to lay their heads at night.

We support SB 90 to continue the practice of keeping personal residential information confidential, and out of public records requests. Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) routinely receives requests from a variety of entities regarding publicly available information. It has long been the practice of ODHS to reserve from disclosure the residential information of people with IDD who live in foster homes, group homes, and other funded residential spaces. A few years ago, public records law changed and this practice of keeping residential information confidential was challenged. Through that process, we have learned that statutory support is needed to continue this practice of confidentiality. SB 90 will provide that statutory clarity.

We do note that this bill pertains only to public records release. The subpoena process would still allow the disclosure of the addresses during legal proceedings.

The Oregon DD Coalition respectfully asks that you pass SB 90. Thank you for your consideration of this issue, and protection for the privacy of Oregonians with IDD.