



January 18, 2023

To: Sen Taylor, Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Business

From: Emily Braman, Chair, Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: Support for Senate Bill 571

Chair Taylor and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is a group of more than 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.

The DD Coalition believes that Oregon is strongest when everyone has the support that they need to live a healthy and full life as a part of their community. The DD Coalition supports SB 571 because it will afford people with disabilities the same opportunities to save for retirement as those who do not have disabilities.

In 2014 Congress passed the ABLE Act which created a new section within the Internal Revenue Code. This new code allowed people with disabilities to save for certain expenses to supplement their disability benefits from the federal government. Shortly after, in 2015, Oregon listened to the voices of self-advocates and passed SB 777 which implemented the Oregon ABLE Savings Plan. These Oregon ABLE accounts allow for people with



disabilities to save money, without barriers, for things such as education, transportation, housing, or a larger personal expense.

Oregon is strongest when everyone has the opportunity and support to work for a living wage in their community. Over the past decade, Oregon has worked to ensure that people with DD have resources and support to go to work in their communities. Many people with DD now earn a living in their community. Yet to maintain the paid support that allows them to hold that job, they must keep their resources extremely low. ABLE accounts allow them to save their income and keep their support and therefore keep their jobs. One of the only ways people with disabilities can save and keep their supports is through ABLE accounts. Allowing people to make employer-matched deductions to their ABLE accounts recognizes the important place ABLE holds in the lives of people with disabilities.

As Oregonians with disabilities work, they should have the right education about their financial options for their future as well as the right to contribute to their ABLE account in lieu of a retirement account. We respectfully ask that you **pass SB 571** and provide Oregonians with disabilities the opportunity to save for their future