



Oregon  
Community  
Brokerages

January 24, 2023

To: Rep Reynolds, Chair, House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services  
From: Katie Rose, Executive Director, Oregon Community Brokerages

Re: HB 2500, requiring mileage reimbursement for PSWs and DSPs traveling long distances to perform support work in the community

---

Chair Reynolds and members of the committee,

Oregon Community Brokerages is comprised of the 14 Support Service Brokerages across Oregon. We provide case management services to more than 7,500 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in their own or family homes in every community throughout the state. We connect people to what matters to them and support them to make the important decisions and choices that make up a life.

Oregon committed to community-based services as the right way to support thriving communities in the early 2000s, when we closed Fairview Training Center and began rolling out Brokerage services. Instead of asking people to leave their homes in order to receive support, Brokerages were asked to support the growth of provider capacity to serve in people's homes, neighborhoods, towns, and places of employment.

As case management providers for community-based services, Brokerages support people with IDD and their families to employ the bulk of the Personal Support Worker workforce. We also rely on the work of Direct Support Professionals and the agencies that employ them to provide such vital services as support with meal preparation and planning, medical support management, community access, and so much more. Paying providers to travel to rural areas removes some of the dis-incentive that exists to support people living there.

People living in more remote locations around the state deserve support to build skills in their homes and communities, but rising gas prices and inflation deter many providers from accepting work when they cannot be paid to get to them. Oregon Community Brokerages supports HB 2500, allowing the reimbursement of mileage for PSWs and DSPs travelling long distances to support people where they are.

Please pass HB 2500 and encourage access to community-based support for all Oregonians, regardless of where they live.