

Submitter: Randy Hauth  
On Behalf Of: Bind Persons  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services  
Measure: SB5503

?February 16, 2023.

Dear  
Co-Chair Campos  
Co-Chair Valderrama  
and  
Human Services Committee Members.

My name is Randy Hauth, and I serve as the Elected Committee Chairperson for the Business Enterprise Program of Oregon, as well I serve as President for Blind Employment Services of Tomorrow, and to (as a person who is blind) I am a interested person/consumer at the Oregon Commission for the Blind, and in this capacity I provide to you today testimony in opposition to SB 5503, where to the extent SB, supports/authorizes any increase in Federal Spending Limitation allowance.

As such, and after reviewing proposed SB 5503, which comes before you today and while I remain uncertain as to how the “spending limitation allowance comes into play here” (if at all) I provide to you this testimony (if) applicable.

That shared, on February 3, 2023 the Oregon Commission for the Blind, introduced a request to their Board of Commissioners “requesting” a drastic increase in Federal Spending allowance of \$1,6000,000.00 , with \$1,200,000.00 to be directed “specifically” towards the continued implementation of the agencies self imposed self service initiative which to date has created hardships, and imposed barriers upon persons who are blind within the Business Enterprise Program.

Whereas this testimony calls upon you to carefully question “any” such funding allowance request by the Oregon Commission for the Blind as unnecessary and wasteful.

Be it known further, that the attached “fiscal impact report” created by the agency projects no fiscal impact (doing so) wrongfully in consideration of such initiative.

Furthermore, it is contended that the heavy handed “agency dictate” being enforced upon blind managers, has not only imposed financial hardships and physical barriers

upon them, but as well has caused a drastic increase in agency repair costs, machine parts and replacement costs, as well has “forced” (2) blind managers licensed by the Commission to leave the program.

It is believed that the pattern of wasteful spending, fiscal irresponsibilities , and heavy handed administrative dictates against blind managers, should not be rewarded with more spending allowance but more so investigated respectfully.

To this end and in sum, the Oregon Commission for the Blind’s Administration has “in many ways” utilized their discretion and authority “unreasonably” to completely change the Blind Managers “private public business service model, imposing financial and physical hardships upon them, as well has imposed barrier after barrier upon them, inclusive of the need to drive in order to properly carry out the “self service dictate” which persons who are blind can not do.

Last but certainly not least, is the fact that “in spite of concerns” being shared with the agency inclusive of financial losses, documented hardships, health and wellness issues the agency leadership continues to “plow” forward simply not listening and/or caring to accept their failed finish line outcome.

In addition to, and because of their lack of consideration to these concerns brought forth, blind managers have had no other pathway other than to “grieve” their position so to protect their livelihoods which has created a bad climate and increased AG costs unnecessarily so, most believe.

Upon your request, I can provide to you a greater detailed overview, however here for your consideration I have provided (below) the Fiscal Impact Report relevant to this matter, as well as the (3rd quarter) BEP Financial Report, which captures the increased repair costs, and increased AG costs due to the agency dictate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Randy Hauth

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