



March 3, 2023

To: Sen. Wlmsvey Campos, Co-Chair Rep. Andrea Valderrama, Co-Chair Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

From: [Joanne Fuhrman](#) on behalf of the Oregon DD Coalition

RE: Support HB 5026 – DHS Budget and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

My name is Joanne Fuhrman. I am the Co-Executive Director of Partnerships in Community and here to speak on behalf of the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition).

The DD Coalition is a group of approximately 40 organizations and people across Oregon that come together to advocate for quality services, equality, and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. Our membership includes a coalition of people with developmental disabilities, support services brokerages, providers, family peer support organizations, and advocacy organizations. I am also the Legislative Chair of the Oregon Resource Association, a member of the DD Coalition. ORA represents almost 90 organizations like mine from across the state.

Everyone deserves support to succeed and for many with I/DD the path to success means using I/DD services. One of the ways they succeed is using I/DD services. The Coalition Strives to make sure Oregon represents the best in services that are driven by the person who is living and thriving with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, allowing each person to achieve the same goals as their peers. Achieving these goals requires a strong, mission driven service system that provides access to the level of support needed based on each person's individual needs.

I am here today to ask you to join the DD Coalition in support of HB 5026-the ODHS Budget for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

In addition, we ask for your support in the Coalitions 4 budget priorities:

- Fund **urgently** needed additional investment to address the workforce shortage with support of: ODDS POP 132 - targeted rate increase estimated to support increased wages and benefits for Direct Support Professionals(DSP's) and HB 2457 which will protect your investments made in 2021 by moving DSP average wage to 150% of Minimum Wage
- Fully Fund DD Case Management through support of HB 2448 and POP 130 because people with DD rely on their case managers to support them during crisis, transition and to connect with community resources
- Support Regional Family Networks through support of HB 5026 and SB 1016 because the Family Networks change the trajectory of families from isolation to inclusion in community while making Oregon's communities welcoming for all.
- Support Healthier Oregon through support of POP 105 which expands ODHS services for all Oregonians with disabilities regardless of their immigration status.

These investments establish a strong structure of support and services that enable self advocates, families, case managers and providers to work collaboratively to ensure that Oregonians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities get the support they need to live safe, healthy, fully included lives in their communities.



Oregon DD
Coalition

Advancing Opportunities