



Oregon
Community
Brokerages

March 15, 2023

To: Sen Gelser Blouin, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
From: Katie Rose, Executive Director, Oregon Community Brokerages

Re: SB 1016, enshrining regional Family Networks in Oregon statute

Chair Gelser Blouin and members of the committee,

Oregon Community Brokerages is comprised of the 14 Support Service Brokerages across Oregon. Collectively, we provide case management services to more than 7,500 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) 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.

We believe that deep-rooted, meaningful lives for people with developmental disabilities are supported through a combination of community resources, system support, and lasting human connections within communities. Family Networks were born with the same understanding, which is why they know that formal funded services alone cannot meet the needs of families that include a child with a developmental disability. Families need peer advice and support, and policy support and guidance targeted to their unique needs and experiences.

SB 1016 will amend Oregon statute to include the regional Family Networks. Already strong members of the IDD community, Family Networks deserve to be listed in our guiding documents as an equal partner in this work.

Family Networks serve more people than are served by the formal system, a testament to their unique role in our service array. They are able to make use of a small amount of General Fund dollars to find creative and lasting solutions to the barriers facing families of children with IDD.

The peer-support model of Family Networks is also distinctive. Families seeking services are enriched by the experiential knowledge of our Family Network staff, welcomed and put at ease by someone who knows their path, and reassured that there is a way forward by their example.

We urge you to support SB 1016 and secure continued support and community for Oregon's families.