

Submitter: Tamara Bakewell
On Behalf Of: Oregon Family to Family Health Information Center
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure: SB1016

I work for the Oregon Family to Family Health Information Center (OR F2F HIC). It is a small federally funded program that works with families of children and youth who experience special health needs (including intellectual/developmental disabilities) in all parts of Oregon. We specialize in helping families navigate the complex health and community systems their children use. Each member of the staff has lived experience raising a child with special health needs.

Our organization depends on strong partnerships with all of Oregon's family-led programs; simply stated, the Oregon Family Networks are essential to our work. Over the years we have partnered with each and every one of the Family Networks to provide free trainings, discussions, resources, and support to hundreds of families. In the past year, for example, we have worked with the Family Networks to teach families about the new HERO Kids Registry, Health Care Transition, Spanish-language resources, emergency preparedness, telehealth, and much more.

Aside from helping our program extend its reach, we have found that the Family Networks consistently offer high quality and relevant programming to the families they serve. Because they have close connections with families (and the staff ARE families themselves) their programs reflect the needs of the community. Over the years we have observed the Family Networks to be conscientious stewards of the funding provided. In short: Family Networks are one of Oregon's best ideas.

We support of SB 1016 to ensure that the Regional Family Networks are recognized in statute as part of the intellectual/developmental disability services offered to Oregonians.

Thank you
Tamara Bakewell