



305 NE 102<sup>nd</sup> Ave Suite 100  
Portland OR 97220

March 14, 2023

To: Senate committee on Human Services

Re: SB570

Dear Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Robinson, and members of the committee

UCP supports individuals with Intellectual/Developmental disabilities access a variety of supports in Clackamas and Multnomah county. Between both Connections and Mentors, we support roughly 900 individuals. One of the major supports we provide is helping our consumers find long term care providers. Its critical understand the dynamic nature of the workforce crisis. The inability of the current ID/DD system to generate an adequate workforce to meet the needs of our community displaces the work of meeting those needs to other parts of the system and, often unpaid, natural supports. What should be done by well trained and experienced professionals is increasingly being done by families and personal agents or providers who lack the training, support, and compensations to be successful in a demanding environment.

We identify the following as some issues which may be at the root of the workforce crisis:

- Low Pay
- Lack of Benefits
- Lack of Training or Opportunities for Training
- High Intensity Work Environment
- Unstable hours and work environment.



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- Long wait times between being approved as a provider
- Long wait times to between approval and paycheck

The idea behind SB270 is something we can get onboard with as we know how important choices are for the people we serve. This gives them the ability to make choices around how their supports are delivered.

While we support the idea of SB570 there are somethings we want to make sure are clarified before the bill would be passed. Who would be this second agency that would provide these supports and what are their capabilities to address the needs of our community? I think before we can fully support this bill we would like to know who the other entity or entities would be. This would help us know the background of this agency, how they operate and what to expect from them. If there is not an agency at this time we strongly advise having consumer input from multiple stake holders who are receiving and providing these supports before this choice is made.

Which leads me to this part of the bill “(c) A commitment to engage and work closely with individuals in designing, implementing and continuing operations, through an advisory board, focus group or other methods as approved by the department”. Many times people within the Intellectual/Developmental disability community are overlooked in the implementation of these stages due to a variety of accessibility barriers. While this legislation identifies Personal Support Workers (PSWs) many of the language used during the public hearing on 3/13 strongly emphasized Home Care Workers. We want to make sure going forward it is equal to both HCWs and PSWs and the



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communities they support. It is unfortunate we segregate people into funding streams based on their disability when there are many places of overlap, so I hope we can provide equal voices to providers and consumers of both sides.

Sincerely,

Glenna Hayes

Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator of UCP Connections & UCP  
Mentors