



Mission: Empower Oregon families experiencing disability in their pursuit of a whole life by expanding awareness, growing community, and equipping families.

March 15, 2023

Chair Senator Sara Gelser Blouin

Vice-Chair, Senator Art Robinson

Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: Support of SB 1016 – Directs Department of Human Services to establish and maintain regional family support networks for families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and members of the Committee,

FACT Oregon is a family-led nonprofit that works toward a future where communities are accessible to, inclusive of, and empower the self-determination of, people with disabilities. We support families, youth with disabilities, and partners to hold high expectations and set positive trajectory, navigate special education and disability systems and services, and advocate for the supports and opportunities youth need to thrive at home, in school, and in community. Since 2012, we have served as the state and federally designated Parent Training and Information Center for special education and have been a member of the Oregon Consortium of Family Networks. Currently, we serve and represent nearly 7,000 families of youth with intellectual/developmental disabilities in Multnomah and Washington counties.

FACT Oregon and our consortium partners hold that disability is a natural part of the human condition and that people experiencing it have the right and ability to create whole, self-determined lives. We believe that families play a critical role in helping set vision and trajectory for their kids and together, we already serve more than 13,500 families across 20 Oregon counties. Families across Oregon are hungry for support, information, resources, and community.

Regional Family Networks have a collective purpose to help families plan for positive futures for their children by:

- Providing support, information, and referrals
- Helping families navigate challenging systems such as the DD and healthcare systems
- Wrapping families into a supportive and family-centered community of support
- Hosting and participating in community trainings and awareness events
- Providing leadership training and supporting families to engage in public advocacy

We respectfully request your support of SB 1016 to ensure that Regional Family Networks are recognized in statute as part of the intellectual/developmental disability services provided in Oregon. Thank you for considering this testimony.

Christy Reese, Executive Director
FACT Oregon