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March 14, 2023

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

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.

I am writing today to request your **support of SB 1016**. Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN) originated as a Family to Family Network in 2004. This was a grass roots effort to bring resources to families in more rural parts of the state who were raising children with disabilities. In 2012, CODSN was funded as part of the Oregon Consortium of Family Networks as part of the general fund. In 2012 CODSN was serving just over 150 families in three rural counties. Today, CODSN is serving over 2700 families in eight rural counties while partnering with 2400 community partners to do so. If that isn't testament to the need and value communities and families find or Family to Family Networks, I don't know what is.

Family to Family Networks are able to offer a unique peer delivered support that does not exist otherwise. We are able to offer supports such as;

- Helping families get connected with both formal and community-based resources.
- Assistance for families to understand and navigate complex systems such as Special Education, IDD services and medical systems.
- Skills and mentoring as they learn to advocate for themselves or for their children.
- Hosting trainings for families and communities on disability related topics.
- Sharing our vision that all people are learners, have value, can work and live a full life, contributing to their community.
- Responsive to and support for families in crisis situations around the clock.
- So much more!

Family to Family Networks are a proven model of support in our State's IDD system and should be written into statute and the formal plan of ODDS vs just a budget note as they are currently funded. On behalf of families raising children with disabilities throughout Oregon, **I urge you to support the passage of SB 1016**.

Working together for families,

Dianna J. Hansen

Executive Director, Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN) serving Crook, Jefferson, Deschutes, Harney, Grant, Wheeler, Lake and Klamath Counties.