

Submitter: Jennifer Martinez  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure: SB1016

The Family Networks have worked to support the commitment of ODDS to assure people with I/DD can live lives that are fulfilling, meaningful and self-directed because families are often the first teacher, and children who learn to be self-determined grow into adults that are self-determined.

To date, the Regional Family Networks support 20 counties in Oregon, which represents 76% of the state's population. Networks cover vast geographic areas, urban and rural areas and support families from diverse cultures and languages. Collectively, these networks support more than 13,000 families who have children with I/DD.

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.

Please support. This is so valuable. There aren't any other supports that can adequately provide these essential services to families.

Thank you.