



TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
FROM: Disability Rights Oregon
DATE: March 15, 2023
RE: SB 1016—Establishing Family Support Networks

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

Disability Rights Oregon supports Senate Bill 1016 which codifies the establishment and maintaining a regional family support networks for families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the state.

At Disability Rights Oregon, we see families when they have truly exhausted efforts of working successfully with school districts and other systems. Often times, they have tried to maneuver through advocating for their child without any support whatsoever.

Providing peer delivered supports to families is critical in helping families maneuver through a very complex and difficult systems.

Family support networks provide a critical first step on a parent's journey of how to maneuver through complex systems and providing that supports necessary often relieving family stress, providing information and preventing more challenging modes of resolution such as due process and litigation.

This basic level of support should be added to the legal framework of Oregon. It is much needed throughout the state and every family should have access to peer delivered supports that can facilitate healthy outcomes for our most challenged families.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.¹ We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and "pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies".² We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.³

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Meghan Moyer at 503-432-5777 or email her at mmoyer@droregon.org.

¹ See ORS 192.517.

² See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

³ See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).

511 SW 10th Avenue, Suite 200 / Portland, OR 97205

Voice: 503-243-2081 or 1-800-452-1694 / Fax: 503-243-1738 / www.droregon.org

Disability Rights Oregon is the Protection and Advocacy System for Oregon