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April 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Pamela Ring, and I am the Executive Director of The Arc of Lane County and I am writing in support of SB 5525.

The benefits that the OHA funding provided and the impact that it has had on our public health system in Oregon over the past three years cannot be overstated. It provided the means of Community Based Organizations to pivot and meet the immediate needs of marginalized and underserved population, including people with developmental disabilities and families with children with IDD. The Arc was able to meet a broad range of needs that included:

- Vaccine Clinics and outreach events in Lane County. Sensory zones were provided within the clinics to meet a variety of sensory needs.
- Direct supports and wrap around services for individual and families impacted by Covid 19, loss of jobs, and wildfires.
- Rental assistance for families and individuals who were at risk of losing their housing.

In addition to the funding, OHA brought Community Based Organizations throughout Oregon together through zoom meetings to share what was working and not working in their communities. CBOs were encouraged to be creative and responsive in meeting the public health needs.

The Arc of Lane County is a member of the Community Health Equity Committee, and we fully support SB 5525,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Pamela S. Ring'.

Pamela Ring, Executive Director
The Arc Lane County