

Submitter: Callie Kackley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: SB1016

Hello, my name is Callie Kackley and I am a parent raising a child with a disability living in Bend, Oregon. I am writing to urge you to please support SB 1016 to ensure that regional family to family networks remain funded and available for Oregon families.

For over 12 years the Oregon Family to Family Networks have done two important things:

1. Supported families experiencing disability by providing trusted peer delivered services and
2. Building communities ready to welcome ALL Oregonians.

Regional Family to Family Networks serve 20 of Oregon counties, which represent 76% of the State's population. These Networks reach and connect with more than 13,500 families experiencing disability, many of whom have barriers accessing the formal developmental disabilities systems. They have changed the lives of families by supporting them to connect with resources and helping families like mine have a vision for my child's future.

As a parent raising a child with Down syndrome, I have benefitted from services the regional family networks have provided over the years. When we moved to Central Oregon with 3 young kids, it was the Family Network that helped us navigate questions that we had and helped us to advocate for the services our daughter needed to be successful in school. It was relationships with other families that we found through the family network that were also navigating disability that helped our family to develop a positive vision for my daughter's future. Attending a parent leadership cohort helped to equip me to better advocate for my daughter, but also see how to better serve and lead in my own community toward a better future for all families like mine.

Currently, families have to advocate for Family Networks to be funded every two years to ensure that there are Family to Family networks to plug into. Families navigating disability have enough systems to navigate as it is. Please support SB 1016 to ensure that regional family to family networks remain funded and available for Oregon families.