

Department of County Human Services



February 7, 2024

Senate Committee on Human Services
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support of SB 1522

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to add testimony in support of SB 1522. I am Alexis Alberti, the Division Director of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities of County Human Services in Multnomah County. Our main responsibility is providing case management services to individuals who experience an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (I/DD). We support quality of life and community inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing case management and supported access to funded services. We strive to eliminate barriers to service delivery based on race, background, or circumstance for every person we serve.

Whether it is finding a job, housing, or transportation to medical appointments, a case manager from a developmental disabilities program must always be there when called upon. Since the closure of the Fairview Training Center (FTC) in 2000 and Eastern Oregon Training Center (EOTC) in 2009, there has not been a formal institution for individuals who experience an I/DD to be committed to. Oregon has rightfully embraced the need to help individuals who experience an I/DD remain rooted in their local communities and homes. Despite the closure of Oregon's I/DD institutions, our 427 civil commitment statute, which governs the commitment process for an individual who experiences an I/DD, remains on Oregon's books. Over the past few months, representatives of Multnomah County IDSD has participated in a workgroup convened by Sen. Gelser Blouin to look into whether the 427 statute should be repealed. That workgroup process has led to what is currently in SB 1522. The bill will both repeal the outdated 427 statute, and ensure that reasonable alternatives exist should an individual with an I/DD be deemed a danger to themselves or others. SB 1522 continues Oregon's needed and strong support of serving individuals who experience an I/DD in their home and local community. Multnomah County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities urges your support for this bill.

Thank you,

Alexis Alberti, Director of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Division
Multnomah County Department of County Human Services

Testimony: HB 3116