



February 9, 2024

To: Chair Gelser-Blouin

From: Em Braman, Executive Director, The Arc Oregon

RE: Support for Senate Bill 1522

Chair Gelser-Blouin and Committee Members

On behalf of The Arc Oregon and the eight local chapters of The Arc throughout Oregon, I am writing today to express our **support for SB 1522**.

For over **65 years** The Arc of Oregon has provided advocacy, support, and services to people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. We also support and represent eight local chapters of The Arc serving Oregonians with I/DD across the state. We envision a world in which all persons have the support and opportunities they need for personal development and independence, interdependence with family and friends, and inclusion in the community.

We want to highlight that DD services within the State of Oregon, which support people with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities, are voluntary – at every level of service including at the Stabilization and Crisis Units (SACU) which is the highest level of support and has the highest level of funding within the system. All Oregonians eligible for services within the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services system, which includes people with ID, are eligible for services and supports, a 427 commitment does not change, amend, or add to their options. Passage of SB 1522 would show Oregon's continued commitment to the values of self-determination and community-based services.

As an organization that supports people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) and is appointed guardian for adults with IDD across Oregon we hear about and have had the people we support experience being denied mental health services and supports due to their IDD diagnosis. This is discrimination and needs to be eliminated.

*Achieve with us.*

Please support SB 1522 and eliminate civil commitment for people with ID and ensure people with IDD and mental health diagnoses do not face discrimination when trying to access mental health care.

