



Disability  
Rights  
Oregon

TO: Senate Human Services Committee  
FROM: Toni Larson, Disability Rights Oregon  
DATE: January 30, 2025  
RE: SB 810, Support

Chair Gelser-Blouin, Vice-Chairs Linthicum and Members of the Committee,

Historically, people with disabilities were excluded from many parts of society, including the workforce. For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, work meant spending their days segregated from the rest of the world in “sheltered workshops.” Their pay was often far less than the minimum wage.

In 2012, Disability Rights Oregon brought litigation – *Lane v. Brown* – to end the isolation of people with disabilities in “sheltered workshops” and pay them less than minimum wage. This litigation led to years of collaborative work with the Departments of Human Services, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation to expand opportunities for workers with intellectual and developmental disabilities. While great progress was made, more work needs to be done.

Disability Rights Oregon supports SB 810 because we see it as a continuation of the work started in *Lane v. Brown* and we know that more work needs to be done. According to the National Core Indicators—data gathered in part by OHSU—only 37% of people with an intellectual or developmental disability who want to work have a plan to get a job.

SB 810 will formalize existing oversight, enforcement, and program mechanisms by updating existing law. The concepts included in this bill were developed by a wide set of stakeholders, including the state and its community partners, self-advocates, employment service providers, and experts in employment of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

We urge swift action from Legislature to adopt this bill.

#### About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> See ORS 192.517.

remedies".<sup>2</sup> We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.<sup>3</sup>

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Ben Gurewitz at 971-806-7908 or email him at [bgureiwitz@droregon.org](mailto:bgureiwitz@droregon.org).

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<sup>2</sup> See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

<sup>3</sup> See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).