



January 29, 2025

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

My name is Amber Myre, and I am the Executive Director of Living Opportunities, an organization committed to empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in our community. I am writing today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 725, which aims to establish a minimum staffing ratio of 30 to 1 for service coordinators and personal agents serving individuals with I/DD.

In our region, we have observed service coordinator caseloads reaching as high as 80 individuals per coordinator. Such high ratios significantly impede the ability of service coordinators to provide personalized and effective support. Moreover, the resulting turnover among coordinators severely undermines the trust and rapport that individuals with I/DD need to build with their service coordinators and personal agents.

Research indicates that lower caseload ratios lead to better outcomes for individuals with I/DD. A report from Washington State's Developmental Disabilities Administration highlighted that reduced caseloads allow case managers to spend more time understanding their clients' lives and goals, enabling them to partner effectively in achieving those objectives.

By implementing a 30 to 1 staffing ratio, SB 725 will enable service coordinators to dedicate adequate time and resources to each individual, fostering meaningful relationships and providing individualized support. This change is essential for enhancing the quality of life for individuals with I/DD and ensuring they receive the comprehensive services they deserve.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 725 to improve the effectiveness of services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amber Myre

Executive Director, Living Opportunities