

Submitter: Sara Pittock
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB725

I have been a case manager in Portland, OR for people with developmental disabilities for nearly a year. Before that, I worked as a personal support worker for the same population for over a decade. I have witnessed the effects of caseloads that are too large for any one human to handle. Individuals with developmental disabilities are especially vulnerable to crisis, often living below poverty levels, with little to no natural (family) support. As a case manager, I should be able to respond quickly and efficiently to crisis, and direct resources to help people on my caseload. In the past year alone, I have had individuals living in extreme heat, ice, with bedbugs in their apartments, or were at risk of losing their homes due to the sudden loss of income. I should have been able to address these situations within hours, if not days, but usually, due to the sheer number of people I serve, it could take me weeks or months. My customers deserve better.