

Submitter: Cassandra Diza

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5025

I support fully funding Oregon's Medicaid program because it provides essential healthcare and services for individuals with disabilities. Medicaid ensures that children like my son receive the medical care, therapies, and support they need to thrive. Without it, many families—including mine—would struggle to afford the specialized care that makes a profound difference in quality of life. But even with the current budget, there are still gaps in services and long waitlists that leave many without the care they urgently need. That's why Oregon must not only fully fund but also expand Medicaid to ensure that every person who relies on it can get the support they deserve.

Medicaid has allowed my son to access crucial therapies, medical treatments, and in-home or community-based supports that help him live as independently and comfortably as possible. These services are not just beneficial but absolutely necessary for his well-being. But we've also experienced firsthand the limits of the system—delays in care, difficulty accessing certain services, and an ongoing struggle to secure the full range of support he needs.

Losing access to this vital service would be devastating. My son, and so many other children and adults with disabilities, need consistent, timely, and comprehensive care. That means increasing funding, reducing waitlists, and expanding services to cover more of what's truly needed. Oregon must do better to protect its most vulnerable residents and ensure that Medicaid provides not just survival, but real opportunities for health, dignity, and a better future.