



Oregon  
Community  
Brokerages

February 11, 2025

To: Sen Gelsler-Blouin, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Katie Rose, Executive Director, Oregon Community Brokerages

Re: Support for SB 729, improving access to Mental Health Services for people with IDD

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Chair Gelsler-Blouin and members of the committee,

Oregon Community Brokerages is comprised of the 14 Support Service Brokerages across Oregon. Collectively, we provide case management services to nearly 8,000 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) living in their own or family homes in every community throughout the state. We connect people to what matters to them and support them to make the important decisions and choices that shape lives.

All people should have access to the services and supports they need to maintain their health. For years, people with intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) have been turned away from mental health supports for a variety of reasons, all of which point back to their diagnosis of developmental disability. SB 729 creates a general obligation for all public bodies to refrain from denying a person access to mental health services on the basis of having a co-occurring developmental disability, regardless of age. This brief and simply written bill has the potential to make sweeping improvements in the lives of Oregonians with IDD who would benefit from mental health treatment.

There are not enough Mental Health resources to meet the needs of Oregonians. We look to other bills currently under consideration to move us forward to create and grow the services we desperately need. This bill will ensure that people with IDD are not denied access to what is available on the basis of their disability. As case managers working with people with IDD, we hear too often from Mental Health practitioners unwilling to work with people with IDD. People with IDD can and should be able to benefit from the therapy and practices of Mental Health services. Their needs in this area are not IDD-specific needs, they are human needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 729, making clear that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve mental health and wellness.