



Disability
Rights
Oregon

TO: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
FROM: Ben Gurewitz
DATE: February 6, 2025
RE: HB 2010 Support

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Javadi, Vice-Chair Nelson, and members of the House Committee

My name is Ben Gurewitz, I am speaking on behalf of Disability Rights Oregon and pleased to offer testimony in strong support of House Bill 2163. Disability Rights Oregon is the State's Protection and Advocacy System. We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of People with Disabilities. We are tasked with advancing policies that ensure that Oregonians with Disabilities can, live, work, and play in the least restrictive environment and that they can reach their fullest potential. Fishing and clamming are certainly no exceptions.

We ask that you support House Bill (HB) 2010, which extends key funding mechanisms of the state-share portion of Medicaid, a state-federal partnership. Medicaid is vital for people with disabilities. Virtually all of our clients receive their health care through the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), Oregon's Medicaid program. Overall, one-third of Oregonians, including half of our state's babies and kids, count on OHP for health care. Oregon's Medicaid program is unique, innovative, and inclusive. Stable state-share funding is imperative to making sure this continues to be true. Thank you for your consideration of HB 2010.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.¹ 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 remedies".² We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.³

¹ See ORS 192.517.

² See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

³ See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Ben Gurewitz at 971-806-7908 or email him at bgurewitz@droregon.org.