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## Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Human Services Ways & Means Committee,

**Subject: Support for HB 5025** 

My name is Dianna Hansen, and I am the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN). Our organization is one of the 195 community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving Public Health Modernization funding through the Oregon Health Authority. CODSN serves rural communities, families experiencing disabilities, tribal members, and other populations at higher risk of health disparities.

CBOs play a critical role in Oregon's public health system by strengthening the state's capacity to respond to emerging health challenges. We are trusted partners within our communities, ensuring that essential health services and education reach those most in need. Through Public Health Modernization funding, we have been able to expand outreach, address barriers to healthcare, and provide critical support for families experiencing disabilities who often struggle to access necessary services in rural areas. However, significant gaps remain, particularly for families in remote areas who face workforce shortages, transportation barriers, and a lack of accessible healthcare and community supports.

Currently, OHA's Public Health Modernization budget stands at \$110 million in General Funds, supporting Local Public Health Authorities, Tribal Health, OHA, and CBOs. While progress has been made since the pandemic, ongoing public health threats and disparities require sustained and expanded investment.

We urge the Legislature to approve an additional \$25 million for Public Health Modernization. The Governor's proposed \$2 million increase falls short of what is needed to effectively address unmet health needs, particularly in rural communities and among families experiencing disabilities, where gaps in services continue to impact health outcomes.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical investment in Oregon's public health capacity.

Sincerely,

Dianna J. Hansen

Dianna J. Hansen Executive Director & Co-Founder Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN)