



**TO: Rep. Annessa Hartman, Chair
Rep. Hoa Nguyen, Vice Chair
Rep. Anna Scharf, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services**

**FR: Amanda Dalton
Oregon Resource Association**

RE: Support for HB 3224

February 27, 2025

On behalf of the Oregon Resource Association, and our approximately 100 community provider organizations across Oregon, we offer our support of HB 3224. Our members are the State's community provider partners who provide services across Oregon that support people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities to live, work and stay connected in their communities.

The efficiency of background checks and streamlining their review is an important issue to ORA, our members and the workforce of Direct Support Professionals who serve individuals experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities across Oregon. We greatly appreciate the leadership by Rep. Nathanson both with the introduction of HB 3224 and HB 3239, which would fully fund RapBack as authorized by the 2024 Legislature.

We believe background checks are an important safety feature protecting both our employees and the people we serve. However, a patchwork of laws with differing levels of review, criteria and look back periods can be confusing to our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and lead to delays at the Background Check Unit. Which in turn lead to longer wait times for our DSPs – if they can wait at all – and possible delays for rechecks. This also impacts portability and the ability for someone skilled in one care setting from being able to join one of our community providers and immediately be able to serve those we support.

We support the study proposed in HB 3224 in hopes it identifies new efficiencies and protections for our DSPs and the people we serve.