



Oregon DD
Coalition

Advancing Opportunities

February 12, 2025

To: Senator Gelser Blouin, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: Senate Bill 136 (Support)

To Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is a group of approximately 30 organizations across Oregon that promote quality services, equity, and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. Our members include the Oregon Self-Advocacy Coalition (a statewide coalition of people with I/DD or “self-advocates”), peer-based family support organizations, support services brokerages, advocacy organizations, and developmental disability providers and the DD Act Network Partners.

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve access to the highest quality of services and supports. These standards can only be met when providers are held accountable for harmful actions. Senate Bill 136 is an important measure that would assure that the Department of Human Services (DHS) has the tools it needs to fulfill critical oversight duties with respect to providers of community-based services to individuals with I/DD. The bill grants DHS the authority to revoke the license of a provider who should be disqualified for engaging in activities detrimental to the clients they support or the services they provide.

Providers who intentionally deny access, manipulate, conceal or destroy records; place clients’ health or safety at risk; or engage in fraud ought to expect that those activities have consequences. To be placed on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General’s “Excluded Providers List,” individuals or entities must have engaged in serious misconduct, typically



related to fraud, abuse, or other illegal activities. Being on the list leads to serious consequences such as a ban from receiving payments for Medicaid or Medicare services.

While those consequences disrupt the ability of those providers to provide care for eligible individuals, the actions that lead to placement on the “Excluded Provider List” undermine the integrity of the healthcare system and the trust placed in it by individuals with disabilities receiving care. Revocation of licenses, endorsement and certificates may be a severe consequence, but it is vital to safeguard the system of developmental disability services from exploitation, waste, and harm.

Accountability and quality of care are fundamental to protecting the rights and well-being of individuals with disabilities. Ensuring that supports are provided in a safe and responsible manner is both a moral and a legal obligation. When providers fail to meet these standards, there should be clear, enforceable consequences that reflect the severity of their actions.

By holding providers of community services for people with I/DD accountable, we create an environment where individuals with disabilities are treated with dignity and receive the supports they need to live fulfilling lives. SB 136 empowers DHS to hold our service systems accountable, so they function without fail and maintain an uncompromising focus on the well-being of those we serve.