

# Catholic Community Services Foundation

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## Letter of Support SB 595

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Sara Gelser Blouin, Chair  
Senator Diane Linthicum, Vice Chair

Dear Senate Committee members,

I am writing on behalf of three nonprofit organizations that contract and receive grants from the State of Oregon. These nonprofits are Catholic Community Services, Catholic Community Services Foundation and the Integrated Services Network.

As the CEO of all three organizations, I can attest that SB 595 is an extremely important piece of legislation and has these organizations full support.

I want to highlight the vital services these three organizations provide and the ongoing, growing challenges of doing business with the State of Oregon. These organizations are pillars of support for many of Oregon's most vulnerable populations, including children in need of safe, nurturing environments, seniors who require specialized care and dignity in aging, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) striving to live independently with proper support, and unsheltered individuals seeking stability and access to critical resources.

Despite their significant impact, these organizations face persistent barriers, such as funding gaps, administrative inefficiencies, and complex compliance requirements when working with state agencies. These challenges hinder their ability to fully meet the needs of Oregon's most at-risk populations. Meaningful reform and stronger partnerships with the State of Oregon are necessary to ensure the continued delivery of these essential services.

One of our largest services providing 24/7, homelike residential care for adults who experience IDD has only received a 3% increase over the past 5 years. During those same 5 years our organization has seen a 30% increase in the cost of providing these high-quality services. The 30% increase is primarily due to increased workforce costs (staffing), although other inflationary expenses are a part of that number. As a result, we have taken out debt to cover the cost of subsidizing contracts with the State of Oregon. In fact, over the past two years, we have taken \$1,000,000 in debt.

In addition to the urgent need for cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), we have faced significant challenges with state payment systems, particularly the ODDS eXPRS system. Delays involving payments in the hundreds of thousands of dollars have sometimes stretched for days or even weeks. These disruptions create serious cash flow issues, leaving our organization without the reserves necessary to pay vendors on time. This has led to mounting late fees and an increased reliance on bank-financed lines of credit, further straining our financial stability. The failure to



provide timely payments, combined with the absence of COLAs, jeopardizes our ability to sustain vital services for vulnerable populations across Oregon.

Please support and pass SB 595 to strengthen Oregon's partnership with service providers and ensure we can continue delivering critical care to the state's most vulnerable residents!

Respectfully,



Joshua K. Graves, MBA QMHA  
Chief Executive Officer  
Catholic Community Services