



To: Sen Gelser-Blouin, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director, Community Pathways

Re: Support for SB 1065, establishing Oregon's Center for Decision-Making Support

Chair Sen. Gelser-Blouin and committee members,

Community Pathways is a support service Brokerage serving over 525 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in the Portland metro area. We serve people in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties. I am also a resident of Clackamas county.

I am asking that SB 1065 pass this session to establish a center for decision making for people in this state who may need additional support.

I am submitting this testimony as someone who has over 30 years of experience working in the field of IDD. I have worked with children as a direct support professional and have been operating a support service brokerage for the past 17 years.

In my time I have seen many situations where it would have been very beneficial to have an independent third party who could support the decision making process of an individual or family. There are times when a person is in crisis and those closest to them are unsure of the best decision. There are other times when someone needs temporary support in making a difficult life decision, but doesn't need the full support of a guardianship. In all of these situations having an independent party there to assist would be very beneficial to all involved.

By creating an organization that is available to help people understand their options during times of need, you will be establishing a base of support. This hub will be used by professionals, families and individuals.

I encourage you to pass SB 1065 creating an avenue to establish a center for decision making supports. In doing so you will create a system that is uniquely designed to meet people where they are across disabilities, cultures, and socio economic backgrounds.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director
Community Pathways, Inc.
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