



March 12, 2025

To: Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: **OGA Endorses SB1065, Center for Decision-Making Supports (CDMS).**

We support SB 1065 as this legislation would create a hub to help people with disabilities and their families more easily access available decision-making resources and tools.

OGA works to improve the lives of older adults and those who support them in Oregon and SW Washington. Our network enables service providers, policy makers, businesses, educators, researchers, students and others to share expertise and best practices to address challenging issues.

Putting the individual in the center of decision-making focuses on the individual's unique needs, preferences, and circumstances. It also fosters enhanced engagement leading to higher satisfaction and reduced frustration.

This bill defines supported decision-making as, “an individualized process of supporting and accommodating an individual who is an adult with a disability to enable the individual to make life decisions without impeding the individual’s self-determination.”

In supported decision-making, the individual seeking assistance retains all decision-making authority, as compared to a guardianship, where another person, often a family member, is given some scope of legal, decision-making authority on behalf of the individual.

The CDMS would fill an important resource gap for people who want to know what options are available to them in assistance with decision-making, what those options mean in terms of levels of autonomy and self-determination, and how these factors would contribute overall to their short- and long-term goals. CDMS can assist people with disabilities to make better, informed choices for themselves about key events in their lives.

Thank you for your consideration; we hope you will support SB 1065.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce De Monnin, MPH, MBA  
Chair, OGA Policy Committee