

Dr. Jennifer Camota Luebke
1307 102nd Avenue NE, Ste D, Box 163
Portland, Oregon 97220

March 17, 2025

Re: SB977

Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee:

As a mom of an adult with intellectual disability (ID) who successfully completed a four-year postsecondary education (PSE) program – the Georgia Tech Excel program – in May 2023 and who currently works in a full-time job, as a former Associate Dean of the business school at the University of San Francisco, as a current member of the Oregon Council for Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), and as the President and CEO of Relay Resources, the largest disability-inclusive social enterprise nonprofit in the state of Oregon with more than 850 employees and with over \$60 million in revenue, **I am testifying in full support of Oregon State Senate Bill 977.**

Every state in the country now has at least one postsecondary college program for students with ID. In Oregon, we have ONE program - the Career and Community Studies (CCS) program at [Portland State University](https://pnw.portlandstate.edu/). This academic year, due to budget cuts, the CCS program was not able to admit a cohort of students.

If funding for the CCS program stays flat, the program could cease to exist, and Oregon will become the ONLY state in the country WITHOUT a PSE college program for students with ID.

For comparison to states with similar populations to Oregon:

- ✓ South Carolina, Population: 5.4 million, PSE programs: 6
- ✓ Alabama, Population: 5.1 million, PSE programs: 7
- ✓ Louisiana, Population: 4.7 million, PSE programs: 10
- ✓ Kentucky, Population: 4.6 million, PSE programs: 6
- ✓ Oregon, Population: 4.3 million, PSE programs: 1
- ✓ Oklahoma, Population: 4.1 million, PSE programs: 3
- ✓ Connecticut, Population: 3.6 million, PSE programs: 4
- ✓ Iowa, Population: 3.2 million, PSE programs: 6
- ✓ Utah, Population: 3.5 million, PSE programs: 3

[Sources: Population, <https://lnkd.in/g-2SBaj5>, PSE programs, <https://lnkd.in/gCxBWwcu>]

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Studies have shown that adults with ID have an employment rate of over 80%. With just one year of PSE, the unemployment rate drops to 50%. If a student with ID completes a four-year PSE program, the unemployment rate drops to under 20%.

If we value people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, let's fund CCS and expand PSE programs in community colleges in Oregon through SB977!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. C. Luebke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Jennifer Camota Luebke