



To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

From: Alysse Lee

Date: 3/19/2025

RE: Support for SB 5526 POP 109 Personnel Safety

Dear Co-Chair Campos and Valderrama and members of the committee,

My name is Allyse Lee, and I work as a Disability Analyst 1 at ODHS out of Coos Bay. I am writing in support of *ODHS SB 5526 POP 109* and asking you to make additional investments that would improve office and workers' safety. POP 109 would allocation funds for facilities improvements and security and outreach contracts. .

In District 3, Polk, Marion and Yamhill counties, we have an office called South Salem. In 2022, ODHS safety directors performed a safety assessment and indicated the need for parking lot cameras and fencing. Because it is not a state-owned building it took 18 months from approval to installment.

While the office has security guards, they are only present during regular business hours. Many of our staff work outside regular business hours for client needs. We experienced multiple incidents from car theft, slashed tires, theft and threats to our safety. This is not an isolated issue. These issues occur all over the state. One staff said, "it's like going into the woods, you know there are bears there, you just don't know when the bears will attack." Prior to getting cameras and a fence, many staff quit or transferred to another work site. Even when the issue was recognized through staff joining together and raising the issue, it took 18 months to get cameras and a fence. This is unacceptable. We need a system that addresses safety needs in real time.

Without the investment described in POP 109, office safety will persist as an issue and increase turnover and workplace complaints. Please write SB 5526 POP 109 into the budget to ensure that workers are safe on the job.

Thank you for your time,

Allyse Lee