



TO: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
FROM: Disability Rights Oregon
DATE: April 1, 2025
RE: HB 2956 – Oppose

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chairs Scharf and Nguyen,

For the record, my name is Ben Gurewitz, and I am the Deputy Director of Public Policy at Disability Rights Oregon (DRO). DRO opposes HB 2956B. While we appreciate efforts to expand adult foster homes, we remain concerned about how this program would be implemented. During the 2024 short session, we requested an opportunity for further engagement, but we were not given the chance for a substantive discussion.

Adult foster homes are a cornerstone of Oregon's home and community-based services. Oregon has been a leader in developing a community-based system that ensures individuals have access to small, homelike settings where their needs can be met. Because of their home-like nature, adult foster homes are not subject to the same regulations as larger facilities, such as staffing and safety requirements.

Although HB 2956B is framed as a pilot program, DRO is concerned about how it would be monitored and evaluated. Additionally, we worry that this could lead to a broader policy shift without the appropriate planning, and stakeholder engagement.

Fundamentally, we believe that increasing the number of residents in adult foster homes would undermine their core purpose—providing a small, home-like environment. While we are open to discussions with stakeholders on how best to meet growing demand, we believe a more collaborative and methodical approach is necessary. Questions remain about how these homes would meet increased staffing needs—would a second staff member be required to live on-site full-time? What size requirements would be needed to maintain the home-like environment? These concerns must be addressed before any expansion moves forward.

While more discussion is needed, we do support the increased rates proposed in HB 2560. For these reasons, we oppose HB 2956B and urge the committee to vote no.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.¹ We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and

¹ See ORS 192.517.

neglect of people with disabilities, and “pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies”.² We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.³

If you have any questions regarding DRO’s position on this legislation, please call Ben Gurewitz 971-806-7908 or email him at bgurewitz@droregon.org

² See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

³ See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).