

**To:** Chairs Valderrama & Campos, and Members of the Committee

**From:** Joel Moore, School Psychologist, Redmond, Oregon

**Re:** Testimony in Support of Regional Family Networks—Specifically CODSN

**Date:** 04/02/2025

### **Regional Family Networks Change Lives—And Save Oregon Money**

I am writing in strong support of Oregon’s Regional Family Networks and to highlight the essential, life-changing work of the **Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN)**—the Regional Family Network serving Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Lake, Klamath, and Wheeler counties.

As a school psychologist working primarily with elementary students in Central Oregon, I regularly refer families to CODSN for guidance on navigating the IEP process, accessing community resources, and learning how to advocate effectively for their child both at school and in the broader community. CODSN is often the bridge between overwhelmed families and the information, confidence, and tools they need to engage meaningfully in their child’s education and development.

One powerful example I see repeatedly is families arriving at IEP meetings equipped with CODSN-provided materials—binders, child profiles, and organizational tools that help them feel prepared and empowered. Many parents have shared that it was CODSN staff who first helped them understand their rights, clarify their priorities, and gain the confidence to participate as equal partners on their child’s educational team.

CODSN is a trusted, family-led organization supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families across Central and Eastern Oregon. From the Warm Springs Reservation to remote Harney County, CODSN ensures families receive not only information—but genuine connection, advocacy, and culturally responsive support.

In the 2023–2024 year alone, CODSN:

- Provided resources and support to 3,655 families
- Reached 16,257 attendees through 228 trainings and events
- Activated 109 community partners to improve access and inclusion

In communities where families face deep systemic barriers—fragmented services, inaccessible education, and gaps in youth mental health—CODSN steps in to:

- Offer **culturally and linguistically relevant support**, including multiple Spanish-language groups

- Build inclusive, accessible spaces through sensory-friendly movie nights, resource fairs, and emergency preparedness events
- Provide **disability awareness education** to schools, healthcare providers, and local governments
- Deliver **family-driven advocacy** in over 150 statewide and regional committee meetings

Regional Family Networks like CODSN create lasting change. They improve outcomes, reduce family isolation, and help Oregon save money by preventing crisis and reducing system strain. These networks are smart investments—and critical supports for thousands of Oregon families.

**I strongly urge you to continue and expand funding for Oregon’s Regional Family Networks. Our communities need them now more than ever.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel D. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joel D. Moore, Ed.S. School Psychology

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