

To: Chairs Valderrama & Campos, and Members of the Committee
From: Callie Kackley
Re: Testimony in Support of Regional Family Networks & CODSN
Date: April 3, 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 life-changing impact of the **Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN)**—the Regional Family Network serving Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Lake, Klamath, and Wheeler counties.

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

How CODSN Has Impacted Me:

As a parent raising a now teenager with Down syndrome, I have benefitted from services that regional family networks provide. The journey of disability can be incredibly overwhelming at times. Whether it be receiving a new or unexpected diagnosis, spending hours sifting through piles of paperwork, managing added appointments/therapies or having to learn about systems that we never knew existed before - all while trying to meet the day to day needs of our loved one. It's in these moments that parents and families can feel isolated, lonely and overwhelmed. I know I have been that parent who felt like the waves were crashing over me and I started to wonder if would always feel like this.

It's family networks like CODSN that are a lifeline and beacon of hope. As a family-led organization that has personal lived experience with disability, they are able to come alongside families like mine to help answer questions, get connected to resources, show parents they are not alone and help point to a light at the end of the tunnel.

Being connected to other families that are navigating disability that have walked this road before me has helped me to develop a positive vision for my daughter's future and see what is possible for our family. I have also received free parent trainings throughout my journey with disability, which have taught me invaluable skills and given me the ability to navigate complex systems with confidence.

Learn more at: www.codsn.org