

**To: Chairs Valderrama & Campos, and Members of the Committee**  
**From: Stephanie Sullivan**  
**Re: Testimony in Support of Regional Family Networks—Specifically CODSN**  
**Date: 4/3/2025**

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## **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 support for thousands of Oregon families.

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

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**How CODSN Has Impacted Me and my Family:**

CODSN has impacted mine and my family's lives for the better. When my son was first diagnosed I had no idea what to do, who to turn to, where to find support, or what resources were available to my family. I met one of the CODSN employees at my son's therapy visit and later joined a support group for moms with disabled children. I have learned SO much from this family network and they are such an invaluable resource for the families in the trenches. Since then, I have felt so empowered that I have adopted two more kiddos with disabilities and I have become a wealth of knowledge for other families that are struggling. I can now help others through my lived experience and with the resources and knowledge that I have gained from CODSN staff and training. We have also gained more friends from attending the family fun events.

Learn more at: [www.codsn.org](http://www.codsn.org)