

**To: Chairs Valderrama & Campos, and Members of the Committee**  
**From: Suzanne Robbel**  
**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 supports 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 My Family.**

When my nephew was diagnosed with Autism, our family knew that CODSN would be a vital service for him. We knew he would gain access to specialized therapies, educational accommodations, and community resources. These services empower people with autism to build independence, develop social connections, and reach their full potential. Investing in comprehensive disability services is not just about meeting basic needs—it's about creating a more inclusive and supportive society where

everyone has the opportunity to succeed. I wholeheartedly support expanding and strengthening these services.