



April 3, 2025

To: Senator Campos, Co-Chair; Representative Valderrama, Co-Chair; and Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

From: Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: Senate Bill 5526 (Support)

To Co-Chairs Campos and Valderrama and Members of the Subcommittee:

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is a group of approximately 30 organizations across Oregon that promote quality services, equity, and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. Our members include the Oregon Self-Advocacy Coalition (a statewide coalition of people with I/DD or “self-advocates”), peer-based family support organizations, support services brokerages, advocacy organizations, and developmental disability providers and the DD Act Network Partners.

Every individual deserves the resources and support needed to live with dignity, independence, and full participation in their community. The DD Coalition supports a budget that underscores the importance of resources and support for people with IDD by achieving each of the following:

- **Case Management:** Fully fund IDD Case Management Entities who offer a lifeline of support to more than 37,000 Oregonians. Current Service Level (CSL) funding of 86% is unsustainable. We anticipate that approximately \$38 million above the CSL level in General Fund dollars would bring these programs to full funding, which would draw down an estimated \$50-55 million more in federal Medicaid match.¹ Final numbers will be shared with the Legislature by ODDS in the coming weeks.

¹ 2025-27 CSL (86%) included in the ARB is \$237 million in GF, so the estimate would be \$274 million GF at 100%.



- **Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) Wages:** Stabilize this essential workforce by setting a minimum wage for all DSPs of \$25 per hour and automatic annual inflation and longevity increases for wages and benefits. Tying wages and benefits in community provider rate models to an annual inflator means that, when costs and minimum wages go up, so does this payment. Longevity pay rewards those Direct Support Professionals and Managers that stay in the IDD system.
- **Existing Regional Family Networks:** Regional Family Networks (RFNs) provide peer-delivered support and systems navigation to thousands of families across the state. In order to sustain these underfunded networks, the DD Coalition supports an ODHS line-item budget of \$3.5 million in General Fund dollars for the 2025-27 biennium. RFNs have been under-resourced for many years, and the number of families who seek peer-delivered supports and service navigation continues to grow.
- **Expanding Self-Advocacy and Regional Family Networks:** The “Service Equity” Policy Option Package included in the Agency Request Budget and Governor’s Recommended Budget will strengthen system navigation for Tribal members and includes \$600,000 to support self-advocacy and expand family networks. Service equity means supporting Tribal Nations, Family Networks, and Self-Advocacy Networks. Supporting self-advocacy means funding for people with disabilities to help them advocate for services, legal rights, and inclusion in education, work, and community life.

Adequate state funding for effective case management, skilled Direct Support Professionals, and peer-delivered supports will reinforce the DD services infrastructure at a time of uncertainty with respect to the federal funding landscape. By fully funding case management, we ensure that individuals with IDD continue to be connected to housing, transportation, and support in the event of an emergency. Stabilizing DSP wages fosters a stable, skilled workforce providing support that allows those with IDD to live more independent, fulfilling lives. Peer-delivered supports, such as Regional Family Networks and Self-Advocacy Networks, empower individuals to advocate for their rights and service needs. All of those are vital components that will be needed to ensure stability and continuity in services despite federal uncertainty.