



Co-Chair Campos, Co-Chair Valderrama, and Members of the Subcommittee,

For the record, my name is Dawn-Alisa Sadler and I am the I/DD System Policy Manager for the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP). The Community Developmental Disability Programs (CDDPs), which provide case management services to individuals who experience an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (I/DD) in all 36 counties of Oregon, are members of the Association.

Case managers who serve individuals with I/DD are a lifeline. They protect the health and safety of everyone on their caseload and ensure that those individuals receive the services they need. Whether it be finding a job, housing, or transportation, a case manager will always be there when called upon.

CDDPs have other obligations aside from providing case management services to those in need. These responsibilities include determining whether someone is eligible to receive I/DD services and investigating incidents of abuse.

To fund all of these services, ODHS develops a workload model that determines how many FTE are needed to do the work required of each CDDP across the state. In recent biennia, the Legislature has not fully funded the services that CDDPs provide. In 2023-2025, the state appropriated roughly 86% of the funding needed to ensure that CDDPs were staffed to complete their required work. This is lower than the funding appropriated historically to APD. It would be beneficial for us to reach the same levels of funding that their division has been appropriated.

Unfortunately, this level of funding has not kept pace with the rising complexity of the work that case managers and other positions in the CDDPs provide, leading to high caseloads and significant turnover in programs throughout the state. We have heard stories of families having five case managers in a 12-month period. This is not good for the person receiving services, nor the CDDP.

This level of underfunding has unfortunately left this system at a breaking point. Case managers are struggling with burnout, leading to higher and higher turnover and an inability to recruit and retain a qualified workforce. We are requesting that these programs be fully funded for the 2025-2027 biennium. Investment above CSL would draw down significant federal match, and would allow our programs to best ensure the health and safety of those we serve. Thank you for your consideration.