



## Developmental Disability Services

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04/03/2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 5526.

My name is Paul Partridge and I am the Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) Program Manager at Deschutes County. One of the primary responsibilities of my organization is to provide case management services to individuals who experience an Intellectual or Developmental Disability throughout their entire lifespan.

Case managers for an individual with an I/DD are a lifeline - they help connect people to vital services like housing, healthcare, and transportation. And in the event of an emergency, such as wildfires in our community, case managers ensure individuals are able to evacuate and find a safe place to go. In fact, our program has creatively developed a direct partnership with Deschutes County Emergency Management to help coordinate efforts in this process. We've partnered with them to develop and test an evacuation notification call center and have now deployed the operation during at least two real-world incidents.

Our programs are funded through the Oregon Department of Human Services. Over the past few years, our funding level has remained flat at roughly 86% of what would be considered full funding. Unfortunately, in our County this makes us reliant on additional local funding which is increasingly difficult to obtain. Under-funding our programs also makes getting creative and building community partnerships like the life saving one I mentioned with Emergency Management -that's unique to our community - much more difficult. It causes larger caseloads resulting in staff struggling to establish strong trust relationships with individuals and families interfering with quality service delivery.

We are partnering with the Support Service Brokerages this session to restore these programs to 100% of full funding. Such investment would draw down significant federal match and will help solve many of the staffing issues that our programs are experiencing across the state.

We urge you to support this request!

Sincerely,

Paul Partridge, Deschutes IDD Program Manager.

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