

SB 5526 Testimony

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 Angie Temple, and I serve as the Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) Program Manager at Symmetry Care, Inc., the Community Developmental Disabilities Program (CDDP) for Harney County. Our primary responsibility is delivering case management services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Harney County has recently faced significant natural disasters, including wildfires in 2024 that burned over 200,000 acres and now, severe flooding. As case managers, we are often the first point of contact for these individuals, assisting them in connecting with necessary services to ensure their safety and well-being. In rural counties like ours, resources from provider agencies and other organizations are limited, making our role even more critical. We not only help connect the people we serve to necessary services to keep them safe, we also strive to help them problem solve, grow as individuals and integrate into the community. We pride ourselves on enriching the lives of those we work with. Most of the resources we provide are homegrown by case management entities, and, more specifically case managers and the partnerships we have built within our communities.

Our programs are funded through the Oregon Department of Human Services. However, over the past few years, our funding has remained flat at approximately 86% of what is considered full funding. This shortfall means that a small team is responsible for a broad range of duties, including program management, abuse investigations, assessments, case management, eligibility determinations, and administrative tasks. Consequently, we face high caseloads and staff turnover, which hampers our ability to provide consistent and effective services. In rural areas, losing even one staff member can significantly impact our capacity to serve our community. This results in a disservice to the very people we are tasked to support.

We strongly urge you to restore these programs to 100% of full funding to ensure that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Harney County and across Oregon receive the services and support they need and deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.