

## Oregon Resource Association

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

Re: IDD Budget Hearing 2025

My name is Lois Gibson, and I'm the Executive Director of the Oregon Resource Association, known as ORA. ORA supports nearly 100 largely nonprofit community provider organizations across the state that serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. **I am here today asking you to prioritize funding for IDD services in the DHS budget.**

Thanks to the DHS rate study, we now have a clear number as to **what is needed to properly fund IDD services in Oregon - \$558 million.** It's a big number—but it reflects decades of chronic underfunding of the community provider organizations that act as your state partners.

**This system relies almost entirely on legislative dollars and the federal Medicaid match.** There's no private pay, no built-in cost-of-living increases, and fundraising opportunities are limited. As I travel the state, I hear the same thing everywhere: **providers are losing money, burning through reserves, and counting down the months until they have to cut services—or shut down entirely.**

Right now, community provider organizations are paying an average of **\$2.50 more per hour** than the state funds just to keep Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) on the job. Other key costs like health insurance, training, and administrative support are also underfunded, and it's pushing budgets to the brink.

**Provider organizations and the DSPs they employ support individuals with complex needs**—those who are medically fragile, living with behavioral health challenges, or requiring significant physical support. They are a vital lifeline for people who often have no other options. **We cannot afford to leave them behind.**

I urge you to support these essential services and this crucial workforce! **Please allocate funding increases for IDD Services in the DHS budget and also pass HB 2150-2. It provides an annual COLA for these services so we do not fall further behind.**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lois Gibson', written over a horizontal line.

Lois Gibson, Executive Director Oregon Resource Association