



Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of increased funding for Oregon's Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) case management system on behalf of the Human Services coalition of Oregon (HSCO). HSCO is a coalition representing over 50 human services-aligned organizations across Oregon that join together to promote the dignity of all Oregonians through improved public policy and strengthened support for human services.

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.

To fund these services, ODHS develops a workload model that determines how many FTE are needed to do the work required of each case management entity across the state. In recent biennia, the Legislature has not fully funded the services that these programs provide. In 2023-2025, the state appropriated roughly 86% of the funding needed to ensure appropriate staffing to complete required work.

Unfortunately, this level of funding has not kept pace with the rising complexity of the work that case managers 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 case management entity.

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. Recognizing these issues, HSCO made fully funding the I/DD case management budget one of the coalition's concentrated advocacy agenda items this session. Such investment would draw down significant federal match, and would allow for these programs to best ensure the health and safety of those needing services across the state.

Thank you for your consideration.