

Submitter: Katy McLain
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Hello -

I am a resident of Jackson county and I am writing to voice my support for state funding for the organization called Bridging Communities. My family and I moved to Oregon in 2022 and Bridging Communities has been an integral part of how we have found community and support in our new hometown. I am a mom of two children with developmental disabilities, and oftentimes it can be isolating to be a parent trying to navigate things like disability services and school IEPs. Bridging Communities has helped to connect my family with other crucial support services such as FACT Oregon and The Autism Society. Without the support of the employees at Bridging Communities, it would have been very hard to navigate a new school system, a new disability services program, and to find friendship and community in the midst of the busy world. I have been able to pass that info and support along to other parents in the disability community as well. Without further funding, the disability communities of southern Oregon will be missing a crucial puzzle piece that helps bring people together and helps fight for a more equitable world for kids and young adults with disabilities. Please consider continuing to help fund and support this vital organization. So many families in both Jackson and Josephine counties rely upon these important services. Thank you so much for your consideration.

- Katy McLain