

Submitter: Amanda Wallace  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: 2026 Agency Reduction Options

Dear Senator/Representative,

I am writing to you as a member of the High Desert Education Service District (HDESD) who works closely with children with disabilities and their families in Oregon.

As you make budget decisions this session, I urge you to protect Medicaid (OHP) and the essential services it provides to people with disabilities across our state.

Specifically, I respectfully ask that you:

? DO NOT cut programs that serve more than 900,000 Oregonians with disabilities who rely on Medicaid for medical care and critical supports.

? DO NOT end the Parental Income Disregard program, which allows over 2,300 Oregonians to qualify for Medicaid services they would otherwise lose.

? DO NOT cut services for individuals with an Autism Level 1 diagnosis, whose needs are real and whose access to supports is essential for long-term success.

In my work, I see how Medicaid-funded services such as medical care, therapies, behavioral health supports, and ABA services directly impact a child's ability to learn, regulate, and

participate meaningfully in daily life. When families lose access to these supports, it places significant strain on caregivers and creates barriers for children who are otherwise making progress. Protecting Medicaid helps families stay stable and allows children with disabilities to continue developing skills that support independence, school readiness, and community inclusion. These services are not optional for the families we serve—they are foundational. Thank you for your time and for considering the real impact these decisions will have on children and families across Oregon.

Sincerely,

Amanda Wallace

Assistive Technology Specialist, SLP, HDESD Staff Member