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MEASURE: HB 4036
EXHIBIT: _____
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
DATE: 02/03/2012 PAGES: 4
SUBMITTED BY: Herrin

Honorable Co-Chairs Representative Barnhart and
Representative Berger and committee members.

My name is Beverly Herrin, I reside in Salem Oregon. I am
the Executive Director of Resource Connections of Oregon.
Today I am pleased to bring you written testimony on behalf of
Oregon Support Services Association.

The highlights of the written testimony are:

HB 4036 will provide much needed revenue to help
staunch the flow of cuts to community services for very
vulnerable Oregonians;

The sunset provision of this bill ensures this process will
be reviewed in the future.

Since October, 2010 Support Services have lost nearly
20% of Administrative revenue. The current budget proposal
of an additional 7% will make us put more people out of work.
The self-imposed 1% tax that can be leveraged to ϕ million
dollars will lessen that cut. 15

Support Services is one important part of the service
delivery system to individuals with Intellectual/Developmental
Disabilities in Oregon. Movement toward improving the

financial stability of the system strengthens the broad array of services available to this diverse group of people.

The thirteen Support Services Brokerages who make up the membership of the Oregon Support Services Association support the passage of HB 4036.

OREGON SUPPORT SERVICES ASSOCIATION



3 February 2012

Representative Phil Barnhart, Co-Chair
Representative Vicki Berger, Co-Chair
Representative Jules Bailey, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Katie Eyre, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Cliff Bentz
Representative Sara Gelser
Representative Tobias Read

The Oregon Support Services Association, which is comprised of all 13 of the Oregon Support Services Brokerages, unanimously supports passage of HB4036. We see HB4036 as an important part of the much needed solution to a significant budget problem.

Support Services Brokerages will directly benefit from the passage of HB4036. The 1% assessment will bring additional federal matching resources into our system. The sunset provision of this bill allows a short term benefit to the people we serve throughout Oregon.

For years other health care related programs have been allowed to use the same type of provision to bring added resources back to the State of Oregon as a way to generate more revenue that is spent in local economies. The Brokerages and other provider organizations are asking for a similar opportunity. While it technically is a tax, it is a self-imposed tax that will increase the wealth of Oregonians. I personally support any legislator agreeing to use a legitimate provision to increase revenue by leveraging taxes that Oregonians have already paid.

As a vital community based partner in providing services to our most vulnerable Oregonians, we need passage of HB4036 to reduce the projected additional 7% cuts to

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CREATIVE SUPPORTS INC. / COMMUNITY PATHWAYS / EASTERN OREGON SUPPORT SERVICES BROKERAGE
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MENTOR OREGON (METRO AND MID-VALLEY) / RESOURCE CONNECTIONS OF OREGON
SELF DETERMINATION RESOURCES INC. / SOUTHERN OREGON REGIONAL BROKERAGE
UCP CONNECTIONS

the Brokerage system. As a point of reference, since October 1, 2010 Brokerages have already had cuts of nearly 20%.

Because of the recently filed lawsuit regarding supported employment, Brokerages will be among the agencies expected to increase services to expand supported employment outcomes. The class-action case, brought on behalf of the Oregon chapter of the Cerebral Palsy Association and eight individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, certainly gives voice to the expectation that gainful employment is desired by many people receiving services.

Oregon once led the nation in providing vocational training services that helped integrate workers with developmental and intellectual disabilities into community-based jobs earning minimum wage or better. Since the mid-1990s, the lawsuit states, "Oregon has reversed course, increasing its reliance on segregated workshops while simultaneously decreasing its development and use of supported employment services." Oregon has the capacity to show both vision and results in services to vulnerable populations. But this can only be done when services are funded at a level that is needed.

Brokerages will be charged with producing better outcomes in response to this lawsuit and further erosion of limited resources simultaneously is not reconcilable. It is imperative we go forward on the vision of the Staley Settlement and prepare for further development of the outcomes expected. HB4036 provides necessary funding at this critical juncture and we urge its passage.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beverly Heekin".

Beverly Heekin

Executive Director, Resource Connections of Oregon
Member, Oregon Support Services Association