

EMPOWERING OREGONIANS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



“Being able to live at home with a support service provider gives me independence and makes me feel like I’m part of my community. Everyone that wants this choice should be able to have this basic right.”

LADDIE REID
& SERVICE PROVIDER JOY’E WILLMAN
PORTLAND, OREGON

SB 559

SB 564

SB 640

SB 641

SB 626

Choosing where and how we live and participating in our communities are fundamental rights. Oregon should ensure these rights for people with developmental disabilities.

Oregon’s developmental disabilities program provides services for over 21,000 people with developmental disabilities. This package of bills makes critical fixes to the system to maximize self-determination for Oregonians with disabilities – ensuring that they have real choice about the supports and services they receive.



#1: SB 559

Providing choice in comprehensive care placement

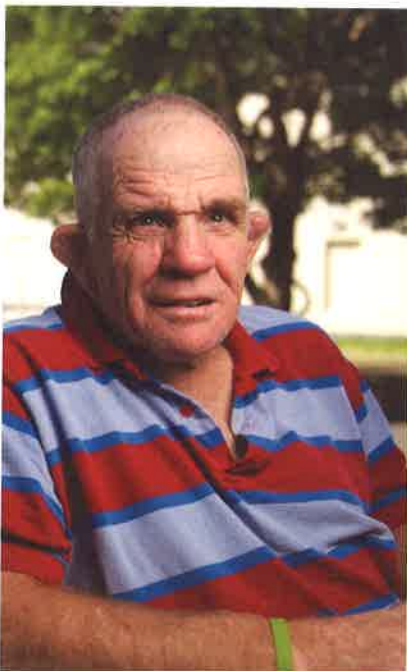
THE PROBLEM

Currently, Oregonians with developmental disabilities who are placed in comprehensive care have little choice about where they live or receive services. The decision is largely driven by their County Developmental Disabilities Program (CDDP) case manager.

In addition, when decisions are made about placement for employment opportunities in group homes, people who receive services within the group home are often given preference for job placement over eligible, qualified people who live outside the group home.

SB 559 gives Oregonians with developmental disabilities a voice in choosing where they live and provides equal opportunity in job placements.

- SB 559 requires CDDP case managers to provide people with disabilities with the opportunity to select from at least three placement options. At least two of the options must be different types of settings (e.g. the choice must not be between three adult foster homes, but it could be between two adult foster homes and one group home). This ensures that Oregonians with developmental disabilities have a voice in determining where they live and receive services.
- SB 559 also ensures that Oregonians with developmental disabilities have equal opportunity for job placements. Job placement for those seeking employment will be individually determined and not based on where they live.



#2: SB 564

Helping Oregonians with developmental disabilities stay in their homes

THE PROBLEM

Currently, support services for Oregonians with developmental disabilities who live at home are capped at \$21,562 per year.

If a person's support services cost more than \$21,562, they are moved out of their homes and into a residential ("comprehensive care") setting (a group home or adult foster home), which costs on average approximately \$60,000 per resident per year.

People whose support services cost more than the \$21,652 cap are not allowed to choose to stay in their homes, often with relatives who have been caring for them for years.

SB 564 helps Oregonians with developmental disabilities maintain independence by choosing to live at home, as long as the cost of brokerage services is less than the cost of comprehensive care in a residential setting.

- SB 564 removes the current arbitrary financial cap on support services for Oregonians with developmental disabilities living at home.
- SB 564 also directs people with disabilities and service providers to create a long-term care plan in the event that a person's provider or service needs change.
- SB 564 lets Oregonians continue to stay in their homes, with support services, as long as the cost of those services would be less than the cost of going into a residential setting.

#3: SB 640

Improving assessment of comprehensive care to ensure that changing support needs can be met

THE PROBLEM

Currently, Oregonians with developmental disabilities in comprehensive care are assessed once every five years to determine the funding that their service providers will receive.

If a person's support needs change within the five years between assessments, it is very difficult to receive a reassessment of service needs for appropriate funding. Often, service providers are forced to file an exit notice to force the county to reassess service funding. Even if the provider has no intention of following through with the exit, this process can be disruptive and emotionally harmful to the person receiving services.

SB 640 improves the service reassessment process to meet changing service needs.

- SB 640 mandates that service needs are assessed once every three years or, if a provider requests a reassessment before the three-year period, that a reassessment will be conducted if the provider has documentation that services cannot be provided at the current funding level.

#4: SB 641

Providing universal assessment tool and rate transparency

THE PROBLEM

Currently, there is a great disparity in service funding between adult foster homes and residential care facilities. For example, the average adult foster home receives a little over \$3,000 per month per client, while a group home receives about \$7,000 per month per client. This disparity is partially due to the fact that support needs for people living in adult foster homes are assessed using different tools than those used for people living in group homes or those receiving services in their own homes.

SB 641 provides a universal assessment tool and rate transparency.

- SB 641 directs the Department of Human Services to create a uniform assessment tool (such as the tool already used successfully in Colorado, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Virginia) to be used in all comprehensive care settings.
- SB 641 also requires that an advisory group of people with developmental disabilities, service providers, and advocates be used in the process of creating a uniform assessment tool that is based on national best practices.
- SB 641 directs DHS to provide the person receiving the services, the service providers, family members, and/or guardians with the service assessment that would show a detailed description of how the rate was assessed and what services are expected to be provided.

#5: SB 626

Expanding current Long Term Care Ombudsman to Oregonians with developmental disabilities or mental illness

THE PROBLEM

Oregon has an ombudsman program for seniors and people with physical disabilities who receive long term care services in residential facilities (nursing homes, adult foster homes and assisted living facilities). The ombudsman is an independent state agency that visits these facilities regularly and advocates for the residents.

Currently, Oregonians with developmental disabilities or mental illness do not have an ombudsman program.

SB 626 provides advocacy for Oregonians with developmental disabilities or mental illness.

- SB 626 would expand the current ombudsman's duties to include the needs of Oregonians with developmental disabilities or mental illness who receive care in residential facilities.



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