



February 10, 2014

TO: Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee

FROM: Jennifer Bickett and Anna Keenan-Mudrick, Co-Chairs of the Oregon Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: Support of SB 1542

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The Oregon Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Coalition (IDD Coalition) is a group of approximately 30 organizations throughout Oregon that promote quality services and supports to further equality and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. The IDD Coalition supports SB 1542 because it creates an avenue for people to access affordable and appropriate home care to meet their needs.

The IDD Coalition believes that all people with disabilities should have the supports they need to live healthy, safe and fulfilling lives. Many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities depend on home care services to live and work in their communities.

Current prevalence data indicates there are approximately 54,000 Oregonians with IDD, yet as of June, 2013, the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Services system only serves 21,000. This means that two out of three Oregonians with IDD must look outside Oregon's DD system if they need home care.

Finding appropriate and affordable home care is a difficult task. People who do not use Medicaid currently have two options to find home care: use a care agency or hire on their own through social networking or job postings. These options can be expensive and often the person hiring the worker must do the background check, payroll and training other administrative and technical tasks, which can be very stressful. In fact, some people may forego much needed care because these tasks are too daunting.

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SB 1542 would eliminate the administrative burden of privately hiring home care workers because the Home Care Commission would be responsible for background checks, training, and home care worker benefits. Additionally, the care available under SB 1542 will be affordable because Home Care Commission will only recoup administrative costs rather than turning a profit.

Access to the Home Care Commission registry allows more choice for people who need supports. Not only does access to the registry open up a new pool of potential workers, it also adds another option for people seeking workers who may not want to use an agency or privately hire.

The IDD Coalition supports SB 1542 because it will remove affordability and administrative barriers for people with disabilities living without Medicaid while giving people more options for finding workers. Access to appropriate home care can truly allow a person to live and thrive in their home and community.