IDD COALITION

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 1577

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 1577, sections 1-3 because it raises police and sheriff preparedness to quickly find missing vulnerable adults.

The IDD Coalition believes that people should have the supports they need to live healthy, safe and fulfilling lives. Like all Oregonians, people with IDD rely on police and sheriff departments for public safety services. When an adult with IDD wanders from their home, law enforcement is one of the first agencies to be notified.

Every minute counts when a person is missing. Without timely assistance, the person faces death or serious injury from traffic accidents, drowning, exposure and a host of other threats. This danger impacts many people with IDD. Some IDD Coalition members report that one in three people they support have mitigation plans that specifically address wandering behavior.

Appropriate procedures allow police and sheriff departments to efficiently use their resources to locate the missing person quickly. Yet, not all departments currently have these procedures. SB 1577, sections 1-3 fixes that problem and requires each police and sheriff department to have procedures to address missing vulnerable adult cases. The IDD Coalition supports SB 1577 because it is critical for keeping people with disabilities safe in their communities.

Oregon Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Coalition

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