



MEASURE: HB 2646  
EXHIBIT: \_\_\_\_\_  
H BUSINESS & LABOR  
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SUBMITTED BY: Leslie Sutton

February 20, 2015

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Leslie Sutton, Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: HB 2646 Amendments to allow unpaid parental leave for parents to attend their child's disability support planning meetings

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Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Coalition (IDD Coalition) is a group of approximately 30 organizations across Oregon that promote quality services, equality and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

The IDD Coalition believes that everyone benefits when a person with a disability has the supports they need to live a healthy and fulfilling life as a member of their community. The IDD Coalition supports HB 2646 because it would allow parents unpaid time away from work to attend school meetings and events. As we read the bill, this would include attending Individual Education Plan meetings, which plan the education supports a student with a disability will access at school to meet their goals.

We are working with Sen. Edwards to amend HB 2646, however, to include disability service planning meetings, including individual support plans and individual family support plans as events that parents can attend using the eight hours of unpaid leave. When a child has an intellectual or developmental disability that requires supports outside of school, parents must attend planning meetings to determine how those supports will be used to meet the child's goals.



These services may include having someone conduct skills training to teach the child different independent living or personal care skills. They may also include training and attendant support that allows the child to be a member of their community. Parents may also use services for respite.

For children using supports from the Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services, these planning meetings are called “Individual Support Plan” or ISP meetings.

During these meetings, the parents and children meet with a case manager to discuss the child’s goals for the next year and the disability services the child needs to achieve those goals. Sometimes service providers also attend these meetings.

Every child and family has different support needs. Sometimes planning meetings can be an hour, and other times they can last several hours. For short meetings, case managers and providers can sometimes meet in the early morning, evening or weekend to accommodate a parent’s work schedule. This takes extra coordination and is not always possible. For longer meetings, parents have to take time away from work. This puts many families in a difficult place to have to choose between working and planning their child’s disability supports to help them meet their goals.

Amending HB 2646 to include disability service planning meetings will help working parents who have children with disabilities be present for disability service planning meetings without fear that they will lose their job.