

Co-Chair Senator Bates
Co-Chair Representative Nathanson
Members of the Committee

For the record my name is Judi Richards and I am from Salem and I am representing Seniors and People with Disabilities.

I would like to advocate to you today for the continued investments to our Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities. This is an investment that can lower the overall healthcare costs by keeping Seniors and People with disabilities healthier longer by using programs that are evidence based. Improving quality of life by early intervention.

These programs include:

Option Counseling for Seniors and people with Disabilities and the families. This service provides information, referrals and education to the under represented. The ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Connection website is easy to navigate or consumers may call the 800 number for a friendly reassuring voice or contact point.

This program has proven to be successful by the Seniors and People with Disabilities who utilize and trust it. Consumers report that they have better control over making decisions on what to do next.

Gatekeeper Program:

Training people in the community to be aware of urgent issues.

Short story about Meals program volunteer who noticed after several days in a row of delivery, food was being thrown out because and the couple did not understand (perhaps Alzheimer issue) The volunteer reported as trained and the couple were given assistance needed. Someone noticed and helped!

The OPI Pilot funding has provided something we have long waited for in Oregon. OPI not just for Seniors but now including Younger people with disabilities. This will allow people who want to stay in their own home to have services that may provide things we take for granted like someone to wash your hair or showering assistance things we take for granted. These are

real people who have been hard working Oregonians but now due to disability need a little help and this program can do it.

I ask for your continued support and investment to these valuable programs and to the Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities who serve Oregon's most vulnerable population.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you today and thank you for your continued work on issues pertaining to the well being of Seniors and People with Disabilities.