

LEGISLATIVE MEMO

DATE: February 19, 2015
TO: Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, Human Services Policy Manager
SUBJECT: I/DD Budget

Chairs Bates and Nathanson, Members of the Committee:

For the record, I'm Stacy Michaelson with the Association of Oregon Counties. This testimony is submitted in favor the recommended investments in the I/DD budget.

Finally transitioning I/DD to the workload model, just as other areas of the DHS budget have, is a big win for service providers and clients alike. Maintaining the 95% reimbursement threshold for local providers makes this move an even bigger step forward in ensuring that communities are able to adequately and efficiently meet the needs of those seeking intellectual/development disabilities services.

The Association of Oregon Counties has thus far not taken a position on other elements of the DHS budget, but our Legislative Committee did vote in favor of taking a "support" position on the proposed increases to the I/DD budget. On this issue, we stand very closely aligned with our affiliate organization, the Association of Community Mental Health Programs. I know you will hear from a number of county directors who are better suited than I am to detail the local impact of these funds, but I wanted to state AOC's support for the record.

You will hear from local providers not only about the importance of this investment, but some of the challenges of late with the level of funding for these programs. Our counties pride themselves on being a partner with the State in a variety of shared services. We believe that when local providers can bring a unique perspective to the work on a community-by-community basis that can allow for increased community engagement, efficiency, and customer service.

We stand with our AOCMHP partners in support of the recommended investments in the I/DD budget, and ask that you do too. Thank you for your time.