



April 7, 2015

TO: House Committee on Human Services

From: Leslie Sutton, Oregon Intellectual and Developmental Disability Coalition

RE: Opposition for HB 3364 Modifying the Definition of Intellectual Disability

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Dear Chair Keny Guyer 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 opposes HB 3364 because it would expand the definition of intellectual disability beyond definitions recognized by the federal government, medical community and intellectual and developmental disability community. Such an expansion would have unintended yet negative consequences in federal Medicaid funding for Oregon and would fundamentally change the nature of the supports provided in the Oregon Office of Developmental Disability Services program.

We have received information about the background of the bill. It appears the bill is targeted to help people who have medical conditions get the supports they need to manage that condition. Oregon's human services systems have programs and services already in place to help people with these needs.

The ODDS system can help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, however, the Department of Human Services (DHS) Aging and People with Disabilities Services (APD) also have supports to help people with other



disabilities manage their medications and medical conditions. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Addictions and Mental Health services help people manage their mental health support needs.

Any of these programs may be able to serve the individuals this bill is trying to help – without changing existing law. The information we received indicates that the people the bill is attempting to help may not have connected with DHS to establish eligibility for these programs.

Oregon has a diverse service system to make sure people have the right supports and services. That being said, it is a complex service system. This bill illustrates the need for more clear communication from DHS and OHA to people with disabilities and the people and professionals who support them about exactly what services are available and how to apply.

We appreciate that this bill began with trying to help people who have medical support needs, but we do not believe that changing Oregon law, jeopardizing Medicaid funding and fundamentally changing the supports provided by ODDS is the proper route to help in this circumstance.