

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government  
From: Katie Rose, Oregon Support Services Association

Re: Support for SB 777, which directs Oregon 529 Savings Board to establish by rule qualified state ABLE Act program as described in federal Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014

Chairs Steiner Hayward and Smith, members of the committee,

It is an honor to write today in support of Senate Bill 777, which directs Oregon 529 Savings Board to establish by rule a qualified state ABLE Act program, as described in the federal Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014. Oregon Support Services Association is comprised of the 13 Support Service Brokerages across Oregon. We serve over 7,500 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) living in their own or family homes, in every community throughout the state. We work closely with individuals, and with the families that help support them.

On behalf of those adults with disabilities, I would like to ask you to support SB 777, which would bring the ABLE Act to Oregon. The Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, Act paves the way for people with disabilities to open special accounts where they can save up to \$100,000 without jeopardizing eligibility for Social Security and other government programs. Senate Bill 777 would put regulations in place to realize the new law. This has huge support in the disability community from parents who want to plan for their child's future, and from people who want to work and save money for life goals like college and home ownership.

Please ensure richer lives for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by supporting SB 777, allowing them to save money and work toward lofty life goals. Please support families of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by supporting SB 777, and gifting them the peace of mind of setting aside money for the future care and well-being of their children. SB 777 is good for them, and it is good for Oregon.

Sincerely,

Katie Rose, Executive Director OSSA

Jennifer Bickett, Community Pathways Inc.  
Barbara Hedrick, Creative Supports Inc.  
Bill Uhlman, Eastern Oregon Support Services Brokerage  
Margaret Theisen, Full Access  
Rachel Dayka, Inclusion Inc.  
Larry Deal, Independence Northwest  
Jill Sorenson, Integrated Services Network  
Julia Wojciechowski, Mentor Oregon Metro  
Anne Crites, Mentor Oregon Mid-Valley  
Adam Ayers, Resource Connections of Oregon  
Dan Peccia, Self-Determination Resources Inc.  
Robin Mouser, Southern Oregon Regional Brokerage  
Sarah Noack, UCP Connections