

## Oregon Resource Association

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To: Senator Kathleen Taylor  
Senator Michael Dembrow  
Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson  
Representative Paul Holvey  
Representative Ann Lininger  
Representative Rob Nosse  
Representative Julie Parrish

Date: February 27, 2017

Re: SB 828

From: Chris Burnett, Executive Director, Oregon Resource Association

Dear Sponsors of Senate Bill 828:

The Oregon Resource Association (ORA) represents and supports 60 community organizations that provide a broad array of services to more than 6,000 Oregonians with intellectual/developmental disabilities. We have serious reservations about SB 828. While we agree that workers need fairness in the workplace, this bill could have serious unintended consequences upon Medicaid-based services in Oregon.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are explicit that Medicaid will only pay for services actually provided. SB828 requires employers to pay for time not actually worked — time that **could not be reimbursed to providers using Medicaid dollars**. Providers of I/DD services are already in a workforce crisis; inadequate rates inhibit their ability to attract and retain direct support staff. As introduced, SB828 would deliver a crippling blow to Oregon's I/DD system. Supporting individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities is anything but predictable depending on an individual's needs and choice. In many ways the flexibility and variability of work hours is in part what draws many Direct Support Professionals to the field.

Thank you for considering our concerns. We ask that ORA be included in any ongoing discussion of SB 828 due to the serious implications it could have upon the delivery of Medicaid services in our state.

Sincerely,

*Chris Burnett*

Chris Burnett  
Executive Director, Oregon Resource Association