



March 6, 2017

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
FROM: Katie Rose, Executive Committee member of the IDDC
RE: Support for SB 834

Chair Gelser 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.

Oregon has long recognized that it is strongest when people with IDD live and work in their communities. The Coalition has worked extensively with DHS on implementing the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) rules. We see HCBS as an opportunity to walk our values and create services that bring people with IDD and communities together. A Human Rights Commission would ensure that we are upholding the values of HCBS, and most importantly, respecting the dignity of people with IDD whenever possible by creating a panel to review when a person's plan does not allow them to enjoy the full extent of their freedoms under HCBS.

Human rights commissions existed during the period of the Fairview and Eastern Oregon Training Centers; they were called human rights committees back then. They played a significant role in protecting people's basic human rights in an inhumane system. Many people continue to have their rights restricted, for a variety of reasons, well-intentioned and not. They need protection from an independent oversight body. The establishment of a Human Rights Commission is consistent with the implementation of federal HCBS regulations and the values we profess as Oregonians.

We urge you to support free, unrestricted lives for Oregonians with IDD by passing SB 834.

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