

From: Debbie Herrera
To: [JWMHS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Importance of funding DD Services
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:40:09 AM

Dear Joint Committee on Ways and Means Staff,

We are writing to stress the importance of funding DD services in Oregon. Below are some of the repercussions of not funding DD services.

- Losing home and community-based services and supports. Waiting lists would quickly grow.
- Losing other critical services such as personal care, mental health, prescription drugs, and rehabilitative services.
- Being forced into unnecessary institutionalization. We might see a return to the days of "warehousing" people with disabilities in institutions.
- Shifting the costs to individuals or family members to make up for cuts. The costs of providing health care and long term services and supports will not go away, but will be shifted to individuals, parents, states, and providers.

For our family DD services have definitely meant a better quality of life, the stress of raising a child with a disability can impose a lot of wear and tear on parents. Not having to worry about medical costs and finding money to pay someone to watch and work with our daughter has added years to our lives. We were thinking that DD services are not only beneficial to our family in the obvious ways but also can be viewed as being proactive in taking care of my wife and I's long term health outlook. We all know what stress stress and worry does to our health. Not that my wife and I want to be dependent ourselves in the future on services like Medicaid, but DD services could go a long way in preventing that from happening. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mikayla, Debbie, and Angelo Herrera