



March 28, 2017

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

From: Ross Ryan, Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition

RE: SB 5526 – DHS Budget, Restore the Fairview Trust to keep the promise of housing for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

---

Co-chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ross Ryan. I speak on behalf the Oregon Self-Advocacy Coalition (OSAC) which is a statewide organization made up of 18 local self-advocacy groups. We bring self-advocates together to speak with one voice on issues that are important to us.

The Fairview Trust is important to us because it is a promise that Oregon will give people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) community housing opportunities that are affordable and based on our needs. Housing is important to us because it helps us be members of our community.

It is important for us to be members of our community. Being a member of a community allows us to interact with everyone else and contribute. It helps us fit in like everyone else.

It is hard to find affordable housing. Without housing, it is hard to be members of our communities. When we cannot find an affordable place to live, we are either living on the street, or using more expensive services like group homes, crisis services or emergency rooms.

I am a member of the Fairview Trust Advisory Committee. We are creating partnerships to build housing for people with IDD that is affordable. We plan to

do small grants to developers who are building affordable housing so they can set aside some units for people with IDD that are built to fit our needs.

If the trust goes away, it will continue to be hard for people to find affordable housing in their community. This will make it harder for people with IDD to be part of their community. Cutting the trust would be a step backward. Cutting the trust would be breaking the promise that Oregon made to people with IDD that they could live in their communities.