



March 28, 2017

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

From: Kaaren Londahl, Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition

RE: SB 5526 – DHS Budget, support funding for intellectual and developmental disability services.

---

Co-chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kaaren Londahl. 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.

OSAC wants to see people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have jobs and live healthy lives as members of their communities. Our vision is that people with IDD get out in their community and live and work, just like everyone else.

It is important for us to be members of our community because it shows that we are just like everyone else. We can do a lot. People with IDD want to do things like get a job, ride the bus and be independent.

I recently used IDD services to learn how to ride the bus. I had a trainer teach me how to ride the bus. This helps me be part of my community and more independent. I can now take the bus easily to my job and around my community. I love my job and being part of my community.

My advice to people with IDD is to not be afraid. Don't hold back. Your life is better when you set goals that will help you be a member of your community. IDD

services can really help you be a community member. Without IDD services, I would be sitting at home instead of working and getting out in my community.