

March 28, 2017

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

From: Sarah Noack, United Cerebral Palsy of Oregon and Southwest Washington and Oregon Support Services Association

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

Greetings, Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sarah Noack, and I am the Brokerage Director for United Cerebral Palsy of Oregon and Southwest Washington and a member of the Oregon Support Services Association. I am here today in support of Oregon's commitment to excellent case management services.

Brokerage services assist adults experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Oregon to live the life they choose in their own or family homes in the community. We do this through providing person-centered, individualized access to resources so that a person can become more independent and connected to their communities. One of the things we do best is honoring and supporting a person's choices in case management entities, service providers, resources, where they live, where they work, and other important life decisions. Our role is to provide as much information as possible so that a person can make a decision with the resources in hand to move ahead in their life in a safe and informed way. We are a critical hub for information, we are translators, and we are navigators amid a complex service delivery system.

Oregon committed to serving all its citizens in the community when it closed Fairview. It was the right choice then, and it's the right way now, but it does require some continued investment to assure that people continue to live the life they choose and to secure health and safety. So, beyond being a critical player in Oregon's vision for our

OREGON SUPPORT SERVICES ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 329 Hood River, OR 97031

oregonsupportservices.org

communities, which I have already described, Brokerage Case Managers help people follow laws, avoid bad actors, get mental health and drug and alcohol supports, and get regular medical attention.

In the current climate of fiscal uncertainty, we will need a stronger infrastructure of case management supports to help people figure out how to meet their needs with fewer resources. With strong case management services people get access to the things they need meeting critical health and safety concerns in a planful way and precious, costly resources aren't wasted. **So, I ask you today to continue fully funding Brokerage services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I can be reached for further information or with questions at sarahn@ucpconnections.org or 503.546.2992.

Sincerely,



Sarah Noack
Brokerage Director