

March 16, 2017

Joint Subcommittee on Human Services
House Ways and Means
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subcommittee Members:

Impact NW is a nonprofit organization that serves a wide range of clients, including children, families, seniors, and adults with disabilities in the Portland metro area. The Impact NW Senior Advisory Committee advises Impact NW on policies and programs provided to older adults in Multnomah and Washington Counties. We meet monthly to discuss issues impacting older adults such as access to transportation, low income housing, healthcare services and food security.

Regularly we receive updates from staff regarding the rising demand and restricted supply of funding available for Oregon Project Independence. Impact NW and partner agencies across the region have 100s of people on their waiting lists for this program and clients currently being served are receiving far less service than they require due to funding levels. The prospect of further cuts to this program is unsettling. Project Independence provides the support services needed to allow older adults to remain independent and to age in place. The cost to the State of Oregon to support seniors in their homes through this program is 10% the cost of care in a Medicaid funded nursing facility.

We urge you to fully fund Oregon Project Independence as part of the Department of Human Services budget for Aging and People with Disabilities.

Sincerely,

Art Balk	JoAnn Herrigel
Darvel Lloyd	Yen Bee
Zoya Vakilpour	Mary Zodrow
Laddie Read	Don MacGillivray
Jody Grant	Melody Macready
Flor Matias	Mamak Tabrizian
Joyce Wenning	