

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner Hayward and Rayfield and members of the Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee,

Thank you, for the opportunity to provide testimony in regards to proposed budget cuts to regional staff under DHS budget for the Office of Development Disabilities Services. My name is Linda K. Lund and I am a member of AFSCME Local 88, Multnomah County and I work in the county's developmental disabilities program. I have concerns about the proposed cuts to the crucial services we provide. The loss of these services will create issues in all areas of the state for people in critical situations resulting from their inability to succeed for many reasons all of which reflect back to their intellectual disability.

County level crisis services help place people in comprehensive settings such as group home and adult foster care. When people are in crisis they tax other community resources that can be very costly. These systems are very often not appropriate and include jail, the Oregon State hospital, triage mental health services, and day to day emergency services.

While the state's Stabilization and Crisis Unit is a service used sometimes out of the inability to find any other housing for a person in crisis who needs a home, regional and county staff are able to do immediate assessment and support to help stabilize crisis situations in both family homes and in congregate living situations to avoid some of the things I have mentioned above. These local level services are a cost savings in the long run. An SACU bed is approximately \$38,000 per month, a stay in OSH is about \$22,000 a month from my understanding and for people unable to aid and assist, jail and OSH are only a short term option.

Regional, County, and brokerage staff work to divert or step down people from prison or jail, private hospitals and OSH. We work to find placement and do development for hard to place people. We appropriately refer people into the higher level of support at the state level after careful assessment. Regional staff provide technical support and training when it is not immediately available and help with children's placement in partnership with DHS. The staff train and screen potential providers to ensure that people receiving their services are receiving the best and most appropriate supports.

The loss of regional staff will mean that people will bottleneck in inappropriate settings taxing the system as a whole. In the event this service is lost the County Developmental Disabilities programs will be expected to do the work with no additional FTE.

In summation, People will suffer and could result in death if improperly placed or left in placements that are negligent. I know that we are facing a difficult budget and I know that there are ideas for cost savings on the table. I ask that you please raise revenue and make sure all are paying their fair share to support our state's crucial services and not harm those who do this work.

Thank you for your time,

Linda K. Lund

Member, AFSCME Local 88

*Advocating for People with Intellectual disabilities for more than 25 years and proud of it.*