

02/08/2019

Regarding: SB491

Thank-you for allowing me to submit testimony by phone today. I'm Laura Noppenberger and I am the Executive Director of Eastern Oregon Support Services Brokerage. Eastern Oregon Support Services Brokerage is one of 14 Brokerages that comprise the Oregon Support Services Association. The Oregon Support Services Association (OSSA) values being able to submit written testimony in support of SB491. Our Association represents over 8,000 adults residing in Oregon who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities in their own communities. Our combined knowledge of issues impacting Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities tells us the most important priorities in ensuring people's success is access to safe, affordable, and accessible housing.

In 1999, the Oregon Legislature made a law stating that when the Fairview State Training Center had no more residents, the property was to be sold and the money used to create a trust fund. The earnings from this trust fund would be used to help individuals with developmental disabilities stay in their own homes in their own communities. The Fairview Trust Advisory Committee's inception occurred in 2001 and since that time they've actively been engaged in dialogue around what is best for the Fairview trust fund to ensure it's intended purpose is to serve Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to ensure greater access to housing. The Fairview Trust was a promise to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that they would have access to integrated housing in Oregon's communities. The trust has always been a recognition that access to affordable, accessible housing is a true barrier for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live in their communities successfully.

Unfortunately, the advisory committee cannot successfully achieve this aim with the current restrictions and structure in place. The advisory committee has spent their time actively trying to move money from the trust into integrated accessible housing projects that would benefit people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but the department's focus is on the delivery of services. The department has a limited ability to be able to address the broader issues of community housing barriers and lack the flexibility within their state contracting and business processes to effectively partner with the nonprofit housing sector in a timely manner. In the past year, this has prevented the trust from being used in several areas of the state where projects were being considered that would take individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities into account in the housing design. The advisory committee has had previous projects lined up but were unable to move through the state contracting process in a timely manner to get

funds out the door. The advisory committee has lost opportunities due to the existing parameters and state structure.

The Oregon Support Services Association supports SB 491, which moves the trust to the Oregon Community Foundation which has a solid reputation of helping Oregonians through philanthropic avenues. We feel confident that the Fairview Trust Advisory Committee can partner with the Oregon Community Foundation to use the trust so that Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities can have housing. The Oregon Community Foundation will support funds being utilized to create community housing options for people experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Oregon Community Foundation has a proven track record of supporting more than 2,800 charitable funds and have awarded \$118 million in grants and scholarships. In addition, the Oregon Community Foundation has an existing and effective process in place to ensure input and oversight of fund distribution by people impacted directly by these issues, their family members, and their advocates.

We support SB491 as its imperative we keep our promise to the people the Fairview Trust has always been intended for. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve access to integrative housing that meets their needs and ensures their success in communities of their choice.