



## Association of Oregon Centers for Independent Living

### **AOCIL**

[www.aocil.org](http://www.aocil.org)

#### **President**

W. Kirt Toombs (EOCIL)

#### **Vice President**

Sheila Thomas (LILA)

#### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Barry Fox-Quamme (ILR)

#### **Executive Director**

Janet Allanach

[admin@aocil.org](mailto:admin@aocil.org)

### **Member CILS**

#### **Abilitree**

Bend

[www.abilitree.org](http://www.abilitree.org)

#### **EOCIL**

Ontario

Pendleton

The Dalles

[www.eocil.org](http://www.eocil.org)

#### **HASL**

Grants Pass

[www.haslonline.org](http://www.haslonline.org)

#### **ILR**

Portland Tri-County

[www.ilr.org](http://www.ilr.org)

#### **LILA**

Eugene

[www.lilaoregon.org](http://www.lilaoregon.org)

#### **SPOKES Unlimited**

Klamath Falls

[www.spokesunlimited.org](http://www.spokesunlimited.org)

#### **UVDN**

Roseburg

[www.uvdn.org](http://www.uvdn.org)

### **The Oregon Legislature**

#### **Joint Committee on Ways and Means**

#### **Subcommittee on Human Services**

#### **Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair**

#### **Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair**

February 13, 2019

Co-Chair Nosse and Co-Chair Beyer, and Committee Members;

*The following is respectfully submitted to be included as Public Testimony to the public hearing on **HB 5026** before this Committee on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019.*

Oregon's Centers for Independent Living (CILs) value collaboration with DHS's programs offered through APD and VR and we want to expand upon this story for a minute.

Almost 15% of Oregonians (600,000 people) experience a disability. Half are between the ages of 21 to 64, are not served by youth or senior programs, and lack equitably funded peer-based Independent Living services in Oregon. Many are not Medicaid eligible and cannot access critical services through other means. Some of these people are served well by DHS Programs that provide Medicaid supports, vocational training and school-based transition services, but many are overlooked.

CILs are nonprofits providing a foundation for APD Case Managers and VR Counselors to have successes with people with disabilities. CILs provide peer-based services that connect people with disabilities of all ages with community resources, peer counseling, skills training, transitional supports for independent community living, and advocacy. We lay a foundation for return to work. We are also an ADRC partner.



## Association of Oregon Centers for Independent Living

The Oregon CILs support these DHS services, DHS visions for growing budgets, service capacity, and collaborative partnerships. As DHS Programs grow, however, it is vital that the CILs experience parity in order to continue to provide the important foundational services that allow for consumer success through DHS, APD and VR.

**The State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), developed by the Governor's State Independent Living Council (SILC) calls for CIL funding to increase to \$20 million a year in order to create a capacity to serve 5% of the people with disabilities who live in Oregon. We ask the legislature to prioritize plans to achieve this funding target over the next few years.**

More than 100,000 people with disabilities, especially those between the ages of 21 and 64, often fall through the cracks of traditional DHS services that are weighted toward seniors and youth. These are the people often served by the CILs and yet funding for these peer-based community services falls dramatically below the need and parity!

As DHS services and budgets are set to grow significantly, it's important to understand that these DHS program outcomes are achieved, in part, because of the broader, foundational work done via the CILs. Our peer-based services create opportunities!

VR operates with an annual budget of about \$57 million and is seeking an increase in funding this biennium of about \$18 million a year. VR is seeking \$70+ million a year to serve 5% of the population of people with disabilities in Oregon to achieve important employment outcomes. We support this vision! We also support CIL funding parity.

We hope the legislature will value this two-part funding approach (\$20 million for CILs, and \$70+ million for VR) to invest in the lives and futures of people with all types of disabilities, across the age spectrum. This investment will bear fruit, and acknowledge the often silenced voices of the more than 600,000 people with disabilities in Oregon.



## Association of Oregon Centers for Independent Living

As a person who experiences a progressive neuromuscular disorder myself, this vision is very personal. Funding this vision will bring about meaningful opportunity, choice and access for otherwise isolated citizens.

Thank you for considering these important service and funding concepts for Oregonians!

*Barry Fox-Quamme*

Barry Fox-Quamme  
AOCIL Immediate Past President, Treasurer  
Executive Director, Independent Living Resources

### **The Basis for Today's Commentary**

*After serving for six years on the governor's State Independent Living Council (SILC) (2008 – 2014), with four years on the SILC Executive Committee, and now serving for the past three years (2015 – present) as Co-Chair to the SILC's State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Committee, I bring some unique insights to collaboration between Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and our DHS Partners like APD and VR.*

*My comments today are also informed by 13 years as the executive director for Independent Living Resources (ILR), the CIL serving the Portland Metro Area, as well as six years as the president of The Association of Oregon Centers of Independent Living (AOCIL), and as the IL Representative to Oregon's ADRC Federal Grant and DHSS: ACL Learning Collaborative for establishing ADRC Options Counseling national certification standards.*

*Serving as a national executive peer mentor for other CILs around the country over the past six years (Utah, Colorado, Maryland, Georgia and New Jersey) with the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) has also enhanced my understanding of the needs of people with disabilities in rural communities.*