



Association of Oregon Centers for Independent Living

Public Testimony in Support of HB 5026

To: The Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Human Services
Senator Beyer and Representative Nosse, Co-Chairs
February 13th, 2019

Co-chair Beyer, Co-Chair Nosse and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Janet Allanach. I am the Executive Director of the Association of Oregon Centers for Independent Living.

Oregon's seven Centers for Independent Living value our collaboration with DHS programs offered through Aging and People with Disabilities and Vocational Rehabilitation, and we appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of the passage of House Bill 5026.

Centers for Independent Living are nonprofit organizations that provide peer-delivered services which connect people with disabilities of all ages with community resources, peer counseling, skills training, transition supports for independent community living and advocacy. We are also an Aging and Disability Resource Connection partner.

The Oregon CILs support DHS, its vision for growing service capacity, and its commitment to collaborative partnerships. As DHS programs grow, it is vital that community partners, such as Centers for Independent Living, are supported in building their own capacity, in order to provide the important foundational services that allow for consumer success through DHS.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Aging and People with Disabilities both seek budget increases in the coming biennium to provide additional services to Oregonians. AOCIL supports this vision for capacity growth. However, state agencies do not

achieve success by working alone. Proportionate support for critical program partners such as CILs allows them to keep pace with growing agencies and to complement and support state service objectives and program outcomes. This right-sizing of program partners leverages their unique role in the community and provides the greatest return on the investment of state dollars. As you evaluate agency budgets for the next biennium, we would ask you to consider the important role that Centers for Independent Living continue to play in serving people with disabilities in Oregon, and in helping to achieve the legislature's statewide policy goals for human services.

Thank you.

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