

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about Senate Bill 20, which modifies types of developmental disability services that may be offered, eligibility for services, and establishes new terminology. Oregon Support Services Association is comprised of the 14 Support Service Brokerages across Oregon. We serve nearly 8,000 adults with developmental disabilities living in their own or family homes in every community throughout the state.

The Oregon Support Services Association participates in the Vision Advisory Committee, a guiding body facilitated by Office of Developmental Disability Services leadership. Changing case management statute to allow for additional flexibility in operation and design is something that the group has discussed. While we support this desired outcome, we cannot support the bill as written.

We support the Oregon DD Coalition's points on language that matches Oregon's values. I will spend my time in testimony today outlining several areas of concern.

- Brokerages came out of the Staley Lawsuit of 2000, in which a group of advocates sued the state for the right to receive community-based services. Brokerages were developed, designed, and are governed by people with developmental disabilities and their families. We were an essential part of Oregon's progressive movement toward community-based services. In 2011, at the close of the Staley Settlement, Oregon made the decision to codify Support Service Brokerages, and their defining qualities and characteristics. Because of this history, it's difficult to see our establishing statute (ORS 427.160, introduced in 2011 via HB 2600, sponsored by Sen. Gelsler) eliminated. Brokerages would instead be represented by two lines in the definition statute (pg. 3, lines 16-17). We would support amending 427.160 as needed to better reflect our current role, but cannot support eliminating Brokerages as an indispensable part of the DD system.
- On page 6, Section 6, lines 35-39 of the bill, it says that *"The Department of Human Services shall apply any savings generated by support service brokerages developed under the Staley Settlement Agreement to provide*

*services to individuals who are awaiting developmental disability services and who are not receiving any services.*" We ask that this language be updated to reflect how services are currently delivered, which is dictated by the department and the Community First Choice (K) State Plan.

- Section 8, lines 14-17 indicates that all Brokerage customers and their families shall have "formal, significant, continuing role in advising the support service brokerage regarding the design, implementation and quality assurance of the support service brokerage." This effectively means that every person who uses Brokerage services plus their families must be on the board of a Brokerage. Although this is apparently current statutory language, we would suggest an amendment to reflect current practice, in which people with developmental disabilities and their families comprise at minimum 51% of our governing boards. Being led by the developmental disability community is an important feature of our governance, but boards cannot work well when membership is in the hundreds.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on SB 20. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in work to amend this bill and find the right path forward.