



**SB 274**

**Expands eligibility for support service brokerage services to individuals 14 to 17 years of age**

January 25, 2018

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of Senate Committee on Human Services,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), we are neutral on SB 274.

AOCMHP's membership includes 32 Community Developmental Disability Programs across Oregon, operated through Community Mental Health Programs, by not-for-profit entities that contract with local government or that contract directly with the DHS/ODDS. CDDPs help assure the protection and safety of over 25,000 Oregonians with I/DD in collaboration with families and providers and provide case management services to over 17,000 children and adults eligible for services.

Our budget concerns are the same as expressed in our SB 20 testimony. While we support a more effective and efficient system, case management entities were underfunded last biennium and providers did not receive the resources the department determined were necessary to run the programs they deliver.

We support the overarching goal of the legislation, to provide more choice to families and individuals to find the supports that best meet their needs. In order for this goal to be attained, structural changes to the allocation of resources to case management entities must be part of the solution. There is already disparity between the caseloads of CDDP and Brokerage CMEs and SB 274, as currently written, does not address this disparity.

Thank you for your leadership in creating a work group to develop a path forward. We look forward to joining a table that will bring together the best thinking of all the stakeholders. We all share the goal of maximum choice for families and individuals within a system that ensures all providers have the resources they need to succeed.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Ramirez  
Director, AOCMHP

Sarah Jane Owens  
DD Specialist, AOCMHP