

LILA

(Lane Independent Living Alliance)

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Endorsement of Oregon House Bill 3122

The following is respectfully submitted to be included in the Public Record as supplemental Public Comment to hearings held in March 2019 re HB 3122

March 12, 2019

The Oregon Legislature, House of Representatives
Committee of Human Services and Housing
Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
900 Court St. NE Room H-272
Salem OR 97301

Honorable Chair Kenny-Guyer and Committee Members:

As the LILA Executive Director from Eugene, I am writing to you to speak out in support of House Bill 3122:

Requires Department of Human Services to request in agency request budget and Governor to include in Governor's budget specified amount of General Fund moneys for distribution to centers for independent living.

The LILA Board of Directors and the consumers with disabilities whose interests they represent empowered me to sign Oregon's State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL: 2016 – 2019) as developed by the governor's State Independent Living Council (SILC), in collaboration with Oregon's seven Centers for Independent Living (CILs), and approved by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Administration for Community Living (ACL). The funding goals present in the Oregon SPIL are the direct inspiration for HB 3122.

- HB 3122 is a response to the service needs and funding vision embodied in Oregon's 2016 – 2019 SPIL.
- HB 3122 seeks to provide parity in funding growth for peer-based Independent Living Services to benefit the almost 600,000 people with disabilities across the age and

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disability spectrums served by CILs.

- HB 3122 provides a strong foundation and compliments supports services offered by Oregon's Department of Aging & People with Disabilities, and Oregon's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
- HB 3122 is a well-reasoned commitment to expanding CIL service capacity to reach 5% of people with disabilities over a 10 year period (2019 – 2029), and to extend CIL services statewide during that period.

As signatory to Oregon's State Plan for independent Living, I ask your support for

- parity for peer-based CIL safety net funding for people with disabilities and
- investment in the basic civil rights of the often disenfranchised people with disabilities in Oregon.

I ask each committee member, and Chair Keny-Guyer, to sign on as a supporter and champion for HB 3122. This landmark legislation will help to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities on Oregon for generations to come!

"Nothing about us without us!"

Sincerely,

Sheila Thomas

Sheila Thomas, MA
Executive Director

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