



March 15, 2021

To: Chair Gelser and Members of the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery Committee

From: Katie Rose, Chair, Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: Support for SB 725, with amendments – Centering the Developmental Disability Provider System on Mission-Driven, Non-profit Providers

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The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is a group of more than 40 organizations and individuals across Oregon that come together to advocate for the services to further the values outlined in ORS 427.007: to support people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) to exercise self-determination, living and working in the most integrated community settings, and providing services for families to raise their children at home. Our members represent advocacy groups (including self-advocacy organizations), family peer supports, DD residential providers, DD supported employment providers, and Support Services Brokerages.

We all succeed when we are guided by the values we hold most dear, such as those outlined in Oregon statute cited above. Oregon's mission-led non-profit support service agencies use these values to direct their work. For people with IDD who use provider agencies for support, these agencies are the link helping them to live, work, learn and recreate in Oregon's communities. Good support relies on a deep commitment to the person, and a responsibility to creatively help the person identify and reach their goals while centering on supporting the person's self-determination. These values of community engagement, creativity, and self-determination underly the work they do.

This is not easy work. Provider agencies that are mission driven non-profits dedicated to supporting people with IDD have the commitment, creativity and dedication to people with IDD needed to help them succeed. While excellence is certainly possible at for-profit agency models, the drive for profit does not always or consistently point toward the values Oregonians have laid out in ORS 427.007. Values are more enduring than fiscal ups and downs. We also hope this bill prompts actions to support stable and adequate funding for our array of service providers that does not leave them vulnerable to for-profit and LLC companies that may compromise quality for profit. For these reasons, we support Section 1 of SB 725, with amendments to make clear that no new for-profit or LLC provider agencies can come into Oregon.

We also support what we understand to be the intent indicated by Section 2. No one wants bad actors to be allowed to reinvent themselves in these personal, sometimes isolated service settings. We are still concerned by the lack of clearly outlined due process laid out in this section. We must make sure that the final wording here effectively pushes out those bad actors, and allows robust due process to ensure we are not inadvertently pushing out those who played no part in the decisions that led to revocation.