



Good-2-Go Oregon

*Supportive Language * Solution Focused * Positive Partnerships*

RE: Testimony SB725

March 16, 2021

Position: HOLD

To Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Anderson, and the members of the committee,

My name is Tracy Young, Founder, and Director of Good-2-Go Oregon, Bend (Deschutes County). I have been serving the I/DD Community for 31 years. As a life-long advocate and provider, I am writing to urge you to **HOLD** this bill for consideration after supporting data can be gathered and a process review made. The following elements are crucial to assure the need and impact of this legislation:

Impact Study/Statement

At this time there is no impact study/statement on file. As a process that will likely eliminate providers throughout the state, this bill would have a probable impact on service resources and choice for the I/DD community. There is already a well-documented personnel crisis, with service needs far exceeding available personnel (See Testimony HB2964, 2021). It is imperative that there is a predictive outcome to such a drastic change in the service landscape!

Supporting Data

The strength of targeted legislation should stand with the firm backbone of supporting data. At this time, there is no publicly published data to support the need for this legislation, which again will reduce consumer choice in services. At a minimum, cross-tabulations showing the prevalence of abuse/neglect, complaints, and licensing actions against for-profit and nonprofit agencies should be examined (tested for random effect and correlation at 95% confidence intervals). Additional data points should be examined for correlation to bolster the need for this legislation (such as means-based tests to compare wages between the two types of organizations, controlled for the service type, $p \leq .05$).

Operational Review

All service providers types targeted within this legislation are licensed for operation under the authority of ODDS. If there are failures to stop the egregious actions of certain providers, regardless of their business organization, this should be examined before changing the entire service landscape. My experience of the Licensing arm of ODDS is that is under-resourced and overloaded.



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Offer Amendment: Statement of “Grandfather Clause”

The current bill and amendment make no statement of a grandfather clause that would allow existing organizations to continue to operate after their current license expires. Without such a formal statement, surely there would be a resulting and immediate decline in available services in the I/DD community.

Without such an amendment, this bill would significantly reduce the number of providers within a 24-month period after passage (the current tenure of an ODDS license to operate). In addition to service losses, it will result in job losses, potentially transfer employee health plans from private to public options, and stunt an already struggling service sector.

This legislation declares the situation an “emergency,” and appears to specifically target a particular operator within the state. While the situation with this operator is well known and most egregious, the effort to vanquish this bad player should not punish all of the other providers who are operating in partnership and faith with ODDS, case management, and the community we are here to serve.

I urge you to place this legislation on **HOLD** until the essential procedural steps have been taken to ensure that we are not unnecessarily limiting the service options of the i/DD community.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

In Partnership,

Tracy L Young, MA. MFT
Founder/Director
Good-2-Go Oregon