

To the Oregon Legislature Ways and Means Committee's Human Services Subcommittee:

I am a Behavior Professional in the OR Developmental Disabilities Service System. I am privileged and grateful to do this work. We all deserve to have people with developmental disabilities included in our communities. This is often made possible with paid direct support so that people have equal access to benefit from and equal opportunities to contribute to our communities.

Case management is the hub that helps identify those needed supports and matches them with individuals. **I urge you to fund DD case management at the full 95%.** When case management is underfunded, case managers have higher caseloads, and people miss out on the supports they need to be productive members of society.

Loss of supports can also be dangerous to the health and safety of these Oregonians. I currently work for a young man who has been leaving his family home in the country unexpectedly. He is a highly skilled outdoorsman but does not have the skills to be safe around strangers. As his DD Behavior Professional, I can make recommendations, but this situation requires immediate attention from his case manager to match him with appropriate daily direct supports. When case management is fully funded and therefore fully functional, the DD Service System ensures that a situation like this does not become a crisis. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexis Reed  
Eugene, OR