



TO: Chair Jama, Vice Chair Linthicum, & Members of the House
Committee on Housing
FROM: Disability Rights Oregon
DATE: February 10, 2021
RE: SB 276, Testimony in Support

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Disability Rights Oregon submits this testimony in support of SB 276, which would build stability and choice in the lives of people with disabilities by providing a fund to assist with home repairs.

PROBLEM: MEDICAID DOES NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE COVERAGE FOR NECESSARY REPAIR AND REHABILITATION, CREATES A DOUGHNUT HOLE THAT HARMS INDEPENDENCE AND SAFETY

For many people with disabilities, home modifications and environmental modification are necessary to remain in their homes. Modification might include a ramp being built onto the front of a home, a flashing light doorbell being added, or some other modification that allows for a person with a disability to remain in the home. While Medicaid covers reasonable home modifications, the Medicaid program does not cover a wide variety of other needs necessary to safely remain in the home. This includes wear and tear, dry rot, asbestos abatement, and normal damage incurred over time.

SOLUTION: PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Many people with disabilities would be eligible for assistance provided to repair and rehabilitate low income houses under this legislation. Therefore, this legislation would support people with disabilities remaining in their homes and in their chosen community by provide needed financial support for healthier lives through necessary repair and rehabilitation in excess of what is allowed under Oregon's Medicaid K-plan.

Disability Rights Oregon urges the Oregon Legislature to urgently enact this legislation.

ABOUT DISABILITY RIGHTS OREGON

Disability Rights Oregon is a statewide nonprofit that upholds the civil rights of 950,000 people with disabilities in Oregon to live, work, and engage in the community. Disability Rights Oregon serves as a watchdog as we work to transform systems, policies, and practices to give more people the opportunity to reach their full potential. Since 1977, the organization has served as Oregon's federally authorized and mandated Protection & Advocacy System. Disability Rights Oregon is committed to ensuring the civil rights of all people are protected and enforced.