

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 5529

Department of Human Services

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Nosse

SB 5529 is the budget bill for the Department of Human Services. DHS delivers a range of supports and services for children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities through a system of field offices and community partners.

The Human Services Subcommittee approved a budget of \$4.6 billion General Fund, \$15.3 billion total funds, and 10,108 positions; the total funds budget is 11.9% over the current budget; the General Fund budget is a \$1.0 billion, or 28.3 percent, increase. The budget continues core programs, adjusts for caseload changes, and adds new or expanded funding for some programs.

Key elements and significant budget actions include:

- In Self Sufficiency, the budget provides \$10 million for services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse; provides \$4.3 million for refugee case management and employment supports; and provides funds for expanded statewide access to 211 info services that proved vital to assisting Oregonians during the wildfires and COVID-19 response.
- In Child Welfare, the budget prioritizes child safety and recruitment and retention of child welfare workers and foster parents through investments in advanced training, and a new foster care respite program. It also provides a 6.2% increase for Behavioral Rehabilitations Services providers to boost worker wages.
- To increase wages for direct service professionals, the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities budget contains \$44.4 million General Fund (\$131 million total funds) to implement new provider rate models funded at 80% of cost; average wages are expected to reach \$15.50 per hour by the end of the biennium. The budget also funds 385 new full-time equivalent positions for community developmental disabilities programs and brokerages.

- Within the Aging and People with Disabilities program, the budget invests in our long-term care workforce. It provides \$44.4 million General Fund (\$132 million total funds) for rate increases that boost wages in residential care facilities and In-Home services agencies; and invests \$24 million of American Rescue Plan Act (or ARPA) dollars into workforce development and training, and grants for capital improvements and emergency preparedness to create safe and healthy facilities for both residents and workers.
- Across both IDD and APD, the recommended amendment sets the budgetary and oversight framework to invest nearly \$270 million more of one-time federal ARPA dollars dedicated to expanding, strengthening and enhancing home and community-based services and long-term services and supports.
- Finally, the recommended amendment establishes a \$15.9 million special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board which the agency may access to address double-filled positions associated with child welfare service delivery, when it has made progress filling vacancies and implemented strategies to improve recruitment and retention.
- The budget report for this bill contains seven budget notes requiring interim work and reporting. The agency's request for performance measure changes was approved.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends SB 5529 be amended by the -3 amendment and reported out do pass, as amended.