

January 23, 2023

The intent of this letter is express our support for the passage of HB 2500.

Eastern Oregon Support Services(EOSSB) is a Case Management Entity(CME) that serves 482 adults who experience intellectual and development disabilities(I/DD) in 13 Eastern Oregon(Wasco, Hood River, Wheeler, Gilliam, Sherman, Morrow, Umatilla, Wallowa, Baker, Union, Grant, Harney, Malheur) counties. This bill provides essential resources to our rural I/DD population.

EOSSB represents and supports people with disabilities in Eastern Oregon to find joy and their place in life, by working towards the same aspirations as all citizens and to achieve a lifestyle they find satisfying. Our vision is to create and support a world where all people are supported to be members of their communities and families; working and socializing within an integrated environment and finding their own place in life.

In our rural and prairie counties and communities, adults with I/DD experience limited services due to extreme distances. These individuals are often excluded from access and choice to Personal Support Workers(PSW) because the mileage required to serve them is beyond what is currently funded. HB 2500 would provide mileage reimbursement for travel to a client's home from a PSW's home of more than 15 miles each way. PSW's provide essential supports to adults with I/DD.

Please join EOSSB in supporting HB 2500 and requiring that mileage reimbursement be paid to home care workers, personal support workers and other direct support professionals who commute more than 15 miles each way to client's residence.



Eastern Oregon Support Services Brokerage  
[www.eossb.org](http://www.eossb.org)