



Oregon
Community
Brokerages

January 31, 2023

To: Rep Grayber, Chair, House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
From: Katie Rose, Executive Director, Oregon Community Brokerages

Re: Support for HB 2448

Chair Grayber and members of the committee,

My name is Katie Rose, and I am the executive Director of Oregon Community Brokerages, an association of the 14 Support Service Brokerages—nonprofit organizations that provide case management to over 7,500 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in their own and family homes in every community across the state. We are a part of the developmental disabilities case management workforce, the majority of which is contracted out. I also speak today from a personal history of having started as a Personal Agent (Brokerage case manager) back in 2004. I have served in the Brokerage case management service system ever since.

Brokerage services were established back in 2001 as a major feature of the Staley settlement. The lawsuit created Brokerages to bring community-based support services to thousands of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities all over Oregon. Over time, our role has grown to include traditional case management responsibilities. We support people to navigate resources, connect to their communities, get jobs, move out of their family homes, and we authorize and monitor millions of dollars in state and federal funds for these services.

With the implementation of the Community First Choice K Plan in 2013, Oregon's investment in community-based services grew substantially. The state plan allows us to serve people with more complex medical and behavioral support needs in our communities, rather than forcing them away from their homes for more costly institutional care. That is the right thing to do, but it puts increasing responsibility on our case management workforce, and it represents a big shift in role.

In all this time, and with all this change, the position classifications for this work have not been updated. We ask our case management workforce to support major state projects, such as our slow-but-steady march toward modernization. Our case managers make everything more efficient. We make it all work. And we need HB 2448 to bring our position classification in line with the reality of services today.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of HB 2448.