



KLAMATH COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES

Date: January 31, 2023

To: House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

From: Dr. Myles Maxey, Klamath County Developmental Disabilities Services

RE: Support HB 2448

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Lewis, and members of the committee,

My name is Myles Maxey and I represent Klamath County as the Director of Developmental Disabilities Services.

Oregonians thrive when we have a roof over our heads, a job that we love, and are supported by people that help us live our best life. For those with an Intellectual/Developmental Disability (ID/DD), a case manager can often be the link to finding all of these important things.

As the Director of Developmental Disabilities Services for Klamath County, I have seen firsthand the dedicated work that case managers, assessors, eligibility specialists, foster care licensors, protective services investigators, and professional support staff perform each and every day. The focus of this work is always on promoting the best life that each individual experiencing ID/DD chooses. Consistency is an essential component to this focus, individuals experiencing ID/DD thrive on having predictability and familiarity from those that support them. However, as workloads for all positions within ID/DD Case Management Entities continue to grow with the complexity of services and expectations from both the state and federal government, we have seen an increased turnover. During 2022, Klamath County Developmental Disabilities Services saw an unprecedented 30% turnover rate, which leads to disruption in the lives of the individuals and families that we support.

Beyond my professional experience, I am the father of an adolescent experiencing ID/DD and four additional children that get to experience the ID/DD journey as a family. The role that the case management entity, which is provided by a neighboring county, plays in our life cannot be overstated. Our Services Coordinator (case manager) is an important resource as we navigate the ID/DD journey.

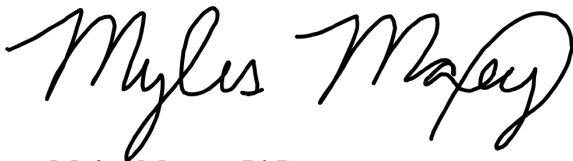
Nonetheless, the role of all positions working within the ID/DD system have grown increasingly complex, and unfortunately, wage growth in this profession has not kept pace with the new and challenging job duties. This has led to high turnover for ID/DD case managers and specialists, which negatively impacts the people that they serve.

One of the primary reasons that wages have not kept pace with the rising complexity of the work is due to the classification and job description that the state uses to build the funding model for case management services. The description has not been updated in over twenty years, and it no longer accurately captures the day-to-day responsibilities of an ID/DD case management entity staff member.

HB 2448 will help fix this inconsistency by requiring the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to review the classification and job description, in partnership with representatives from the Community Developmental Disability Programs and Support Service Brokerages, every six years. Accurate wage calculations will lead to a living wage for these critical positions and bring more stability to the lives of people experiencing ID/DD.

I urge you to support this important bill!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myles Maxey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Myles Maxey, PhD

Director

Klamath County Developmental Disabilities Services
355 Timbermill Dr. Suite 300, Klamath Falls, OR 97601
(541) 851-2366 Direct / (541) 892-2329 Cell
(541) 885-3709 Fax

myles.maxey@klamathcounty.org