

Tamara J. Burnham
305 NE Fremont Street
Portland, Oregon 97212

March 1, 2023

Joint Subcommittee on Human Services
Co-Chair Campos, Co-Chair Valderrama, and Members of the Committee

Re: Support Full Funding for I/DD Case Management

My name is Tamara Burnham. I am the mother of a medically fragile young woman who is globally delayed with intellectual and physical disabilities. She receives services through the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Division in Multnomah County. As a single mother, I'm grateful to access services. Having a Case Manager is vital to supporting my daughter's needs.

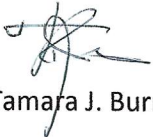
Community Development Disability Programs (CDDP) provide case management services to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) in all 36 counties in Oregon. These folks are among the most vulnerable in our communities. Case management is often the only link to finding important services like: housing, job training and placement, respite care, OHP, and home modifications; all of which help people live their best lives.

The CDDP appropriation is built into the ODHS budget. While the Legislature has made helpful strides toward appropriating full funding, we have not achieved full funding yet in the budget. Unfortunately, this has led to high turnover in Case Managers, and higher caseloads that are far too large to adequately service. My daughter has had 5 Case Managers over the past handful of years. This turnover makes it difficult to build a rapport and detrimental to those being served. Large caseloads have stretched Case Managers too thin; many are working overtime and often in the night to support their clients' needs.

Recognizing the important role that CDDP's play in the community and in the lives of those receiving benefits, full funding for these programs is absolutely critical. For my family, I don't know what we would have done without the benefits. I implore you to fully fund this in the budget!

If you'd like additional information or have questions, please contact me at the address above or call me at (503)314-6684.

Kindly,



Tamara J. Burnham