

Thank you, Co-Chairs Campos, and Valderama and Committee Members,

I submit my written testimony to petition this committee to increase funds by \$2.6 million in your budget process for Oregon's seven Centers for Independent Living (CILs). CILs are funded under HB 5026.

During the 2021-22 reporting year HASL Center for Independent Living saved our community members, in Josephine and Jackson counties, \$108,869.00 in durable medical equipment (DME) that they would have had to purchase, or rent had it not been for this valuable service we provide.

HASL's Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Loan program is offered to the community free of charge to help facilitate the transition of individuals with significant disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions to home and community-based residences.

A sudden illness or injury can require expensive medical equipment. Whether the requirements are temporary, or require a more permanent solution, HASL's DME Loan Program helps bridge the gap between immediate need and the time it takes to acquire equipment through the medical system or by other means.

HASL provides free access to wheelchairs, mobility scooters, walkers, canes, crutches, bath aids, and more on a temporary basis. We offer a contract for an initial loan period of 3 months. In Southern Oregon it can be difficult to find the right mobility equipment offered for rent. For consumers, renting wheelchairs, scooters, or other medical equipment can be difficult and costly.

CIL Pay Equity Policy Option Package (POP) requests \$2,616,005 to allow all seven CILs across Oregon to adopt and implement salary and benefit standards that create pay equity for staff who play a vital role in their communities — helping Oregonians with disabilities to gain greater self-sufficiency and ability to participate in community life.

Thank you for allowing me to submit comments on one of the unique and necessary services that CILs provide.

Sincerely,

Cheryl O'Brien  
Assistant Director