

Submitter: Julie Sheppard

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human
Services

Measure: HB5026

I am writing to request your approval of the \$2.6 million Centers for Independent Living (CIL) Pay Equity proposal. I have been an Abilitree board member since 2015 and watched our organization be whiplashed by funding changes at the state level. As a board, we helped guide our executive directors through tough decisions to cut programs, build programs, and cut them again. We are a lean and mean organization right now with new energy and drive to build on our 41 years of empowering individuals with disabilities to lead more independent lives. As cost of living has risen dramatically in Central Oregon, being able to offer pay and benefits that attracts and retains talent to carry out our mission has been a high priority. CIL funding has been stagnant for 10 years and is not currently equitable. Please support a sustainable future for Abilitree and all CILs in the state.