

Submitter: Laura Dahill
On Behalf Of: Laura Dahill
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee:

Across the state, local public health organizations have made major advancements to achieve equitable health outcomes. The Oregon Health Authority has partnered with community-based organizations across the state, and together, we have made a real difference in the lives of Oregonians, including those from diverse and marginalized communities.

The Arc Lane County is one of many community-based organizations partnering with the Oregon Health Authority. With investments from OHA, The Arc Lane County has been able to support the needs of people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD), as well as parents raising children with I/DD.

Specifically, The Arc Lane County has:

- Provided COVID vaccine clinics and outreach events across Lane County, including rural communities. These clinics included Sensory Zones with tools and accommodations to help people with disabilities be successful in getting vaccinated against COVID.
- Provided direct support and wraparound services to members of the Latino/a community, as well as individuals and families impacted by COVID, loss of employment, and the Oregon wildfires.
- Provided rental assistance to families and individuals with disabilities who were at risk of losing their housing.
- Created a Strength in Neurodiversity community awareness campaign and formed Mind/Body Divergence student unions in a Lane County school district to help address bullying against students with I/DD.

The investments in public health modernization have allowed community-based organizations to be creative and responsive in meeting public health needs. We have much more work to do. As such, we want to encourage you to fully fund public health modernization in the next biennium so we may continue to achieve more equitable health outcomes for all Oregonians.

The local public health authorities and the community-based organizations are aligned in their revised request for an additional investment of \$150 million (reduced from \$286 million). This additional funding will support the health equity work that community-based organizations are providing in local communities across the state. By fully funding public health modernization in the next biennium, you will help ensure

every Oregonian has access to the critical services and supports needed to live full, healthy and meaningful lives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Laura Dahill