



TO: Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Disability Rights Oregon

DATE: February 14, 2024

RE: Support for SB 1557

Chair Gelser-Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Members of the Committee,

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) supports SB 1557.

SB 1557 directs the state to seek federal waiver funding to provide home and community-based services to youth under the age of 21 with disabilities or chronic illnesses that meet the criteria for a hospital or nursing level of care. The bill also directs the Oregon Health Authority to seek any necessary federal authority to eliminate the waiting list for individuals to qualify for home and community-based services under the waiver.

Oregon's mission, and federal and state laws, guide that individuals with disabilities must be supported to live, work, play and attend school in integrated community settings and must be supported to safely and successfully remain in their family homes and local schools to the maximum extent possible.

Youth with disabilities or chronic illnesses are best supported with services delivered in-home, in collaboration with families, in the least-restrictive setting to avoid unnecessary hospitalization and institutionalization.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.¹ We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and “pursue

¹ See ORS 192.517.

administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies".² We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.³

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Meghan Moyer at 503-432-5777 or email her at mmoyer@droregon.org.

Respectfully,

Beth Brownhill
Managing Attorney
Disability Rights Oregon

² See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

³ See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).