



January 30, 2025

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RE: Testimony to Senate Committee on Human Services on Senate Bill 725  
(Neutral)

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To Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) works to create change so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can live full lives as valued members of their communities. All Oregonians deserve to receive the services and supports they need to live full and meaningful lives. Case management is an essential part of that, helping individuals navigate the complex system of services, supports, and opportunities available to them, and advocating to make sure fundamental rights are protected and authorized services are being provided. However, the current system is stretched too thin, and Senate Bill 725 will help to address that gap.

It is important to listen closely to those with lived experience, particularly when they develop legislative concepts that directly impact the programs they access. Self-Advocates Taking Action (SATA) promotes a vision for people with disabilities that aligns closely with the values of the Oregon Council on Developmental Disability about the importance of empowering individuals to make choices about their own lives and improving services through effective advocacy.

Self-advocates have been vocal about the need for a case management system that truly works for them, and Senate Bill 725 introduces key changes into that system to achieve those ends. Built with the input of those who experience



firsthand what it means to live with an intellectual and developmental disability, it places greater priority on the needs of those who rely on case management services.

The current system has resulted in an overwhelming increase in case manager caseloads. The expansion of services, while laudable for its ability to provide needed supports to more people, has inadvertently created less sustainable caseloads resulting in burnout, delays in communication, reduced access to necessary services, and diminished quality of services. Case managers are less likely to give each person with IDD the individualized attention they require.

The smaller staffing ratios required by the proposed bill will reduce caseloads ensuring case managers have the time and resources to meet the specific needs of each individual they support. By decreasing caseloads it will improve responsiveness and enable case management to fulfil their roles more effectively. Those reduced caseloads will lead to better outcomes, higher quality services, more safety and protection of individuals with IDD, and increased satisfaction with the DD system overall—helping them achieve full and meaningful lives that should be available to all Oregonians.

Critical to the success of any decrease in staffing ratios is the issue of funding. Funding for case management services currently stands at 86% of what is necessary to meet the needs of individuals with IDD. Insufficient funding will make it difficult to sustain the improvements proposed by Senate Bill 725 and maintain an effective case management workforce. Improved case management ratios would create a more sustainable and responsive system to meet the needs of people with IDD.

Personalized, timely, consistent, and high-quality services for individuals with IDD will be positive outcomes that result from improving case management staffing ratios. In turn, it will help people with IDD live their lives with greater independence, dignity, safety, and support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 725.