

Submitter: Tyler Nall
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006
Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony..

My name is Tyler Nall and I am the Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) Program Manager at Wallowa Valley Center For Wellness. One of the primary responsibilities of my organization is to provide case management services to individuals who experience an Intellectual or Developmental Disability.

Case managers for an individual with an I/DD are a lifeline - they help connect people to vital services like housing, healthcare, and transportation. And in the event of an emergency, case managers ensure individuals are able to evacuate and find a safe place to go.

Our programs are funded through the Oregon Department of Human Services. Over the past few years, our funding level has remained flat at roughly 86% of what would be considered full funding. Unfortunately, this has led to inability to provide best quality services due to staffing issues. Rural communities lack some of the programs and services of larger populated communities, and we are the lone support for the majority of the individuals in our program, and are relied upon to help these individuals maintain the basic standards of living, health, safety, and connect them with the community. Funding issues make it difficult for our Case Managers to provide these services effectively and therefore harm the individual's with I/DD in our program.

We are partnering with the Support Service Brokerages this session to restore these programs to 100% of full funding. Such investment would draw down significant federal match and will help solve many of the staffing issues that our programs are experiencing across the state.

We urge you to support this request!

Sincerely,

Tyler Nall