



April 17, 2025

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RE: Testimony to Joint Committee on Ways and Means (Neutral)

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To Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Vice Co-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) works to create change so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) can live full lives as valued members of their communities. The purpose of OCDD's testimony is to highlight two bills that will improve the lives of individuals with I/DD—**SB 1065** and **SB 20**.

Everyone has a right to self-determination. **SB 1065** establishes the Center for Decision Making Supports (“Center”) that would help people with I/DD and other disabilities identify the right decision-making options to meet their needs. The technical assistance, outreach, and education the Center would provide benefits not only individuals with disabilities, but also case managers, hospital social workers, educators, and family members. They would all have access to expert information on decision-making options, such as guardianship, conservatorship, supported decision-making, and many more. The Center also would connect adults with disabilities and their families to advocacy organizations or other legal resources to guarantee their right to self-determination is respected. The Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman is well-positioned to provide financial stability for the Center, consistent with its mission that includes education and providing information. The Center is a crucial investment in helping individuals with disabilities identify the right level of decision-making support for themselves.



Individuals deserve to work and pursue happiness without jeopardizing their health and well-being. **SB 20** would remove restrictive income and asset caps from the Employed Persons with Disabilities (EPD) program. Those caps currently discourage employment and keep many people with disabilities in poverty. The choice to work should not come at the cost of losing access to essential Long-Term Services and Supports. Strict asset and income eligibility criteria currently limit how much a person may earn or own to remain eligible for Medicaid benefits. The state has the discretion to remove those income and resource eligibility thresholds through the EPD program, so individuals can work without worry and achieve all the life goals that other Oregonians enjoy.

Investing in the Center for Decision Making Supports and expanding eligibility for the EPD program will both have a positive impact on persons with I/DD. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these important pieces of legislation.