

Cochair Lieber, Cochair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Endr Bailey from Portland, Oregon, and I am a Level 1 autistic adult diagnosed later in life. I oppose the proposal that would remove services based solely on a Level 1 Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis.

Early life Autism Level 1 interventions cost less than late-in-life crisis response.

Autism “levels” are not fixed measures of need. A Level 1 diagnosis does not mean someone does not need support. Using Level 1 Autism as a cutoff ignores functional needs and creates risk.

From a budget perspective, this proposal does not save money — it shifts costs. **When supports are cut early, people do not disappear from the system. They reappear in more expensive systems.**

I know this personally. I was diagnosed later in life with Level 1 Autism Spectrum Disorder. Without early support, I experienced mental health struggles, homelessness, and required sobriety programs. Far more money was spent responding to those crises than it would have cost to provide consistent support earlier in my life.

I still struggle today.

This proposal would increase long-term spending by pushing Level 1 autistic people into emergency services, healthcare, housing instability, and unemployment. It also disproportionately impacts girls, women, and people of color, who are more likely to receive Level 1 diagnoses.

Prevention costs less than crisis response. Level 1 autistic children need and deserve continued access to supports to ensure their future is successful.

Please reject any proposal that would remove eligibility for services based solely on a Level 1 Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Endr Bailey

