



February 3, 2026

Written Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 1505

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carrie Brickey, and I am the Executive Director of Alternative Services Oregon. I live in Tigard, and our organization operates across six counties in Oregon. Today, I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 1505.

Alternative Services Oregon is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) by offering a range of home and community-based services (HCBS). We take pride in delivering person-centered support and providing programs that help individuals feel safe, independent, included in their communities, and empowered to explore and achieve their personal goals. I have worked in the I/DD field for 25 years, and I am happy to write to you today advocating for both the individuals we serve and the dedicated employees who make it all possible.

As a provider, I strongly support meaningful wage increases for Direct Support Professionals (DSP's). Recruiting and retaining qualified staff is one of the greatest challenges facing our system. However, SB 1505 does not deliver actual wage investment. Instead, it delays action by creating additional process without providing funding.

The Legislature already has the information it needs. In 2025, DHS released an independent rate and wage study identifying a \$530 million funding gap and estimating that \$800 million in General Funds would be required to raise direct care wages to approximately \$23.20 per hour. SB 1505 does not address this gap or commit resources to wages, leaving providers unable to implement any new standards.

SB 1505 also shifts significant authority to an unelected board, allowing it to establish broad workplace mandates that could be enforced through litigation—without guaranteed funding. For providers operating on fixed reimbursement rates, this creates serious risk to program stability and service availability.

If the goal is to improve wages and strengthen the workforce, the solution is clear: invest directly in rates that support competitive wages now. Adding unfunded mandates and new regulatory structures with a high price tag will not solve the workforce crisis and may reduce access to services for the people we support.

For these reasons, I urge you to **vote NO on Senate Bill 1505**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carrie Brickey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carrie" being more prominent than the last name "Brickey".

Carrie Brickey
Executive Director
www.asioregon.org