

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Ty, and I am testifying today in opposition to Senate Bill 1505 on behalf of the Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon, a nonprofit that supports people with IDD in their homes and communities.

Let me be very clear at the outset:

We deeply value the home and community-based services workforce. Direct support professionals are the backbone of our system, and we support efforts to improve wages, training, and retention.

However, we oppose SB 1505 because, as written, it creates new workforce standards without guaranteeing the funding needed to implement them, and that puts community-based services at real risk.

Most providers operate in a system that is already under extreme strain. Providers across Oregon are facing staffing shortages, rising costs, and reimbursement rates that do not keep pace with reality. When new standards are created without assured, ongoing funding, providers are left with impossible choices including reducing services, closing programs, or turning people away.

We are also concerned that a one-size-fits-all standards board may not reflect the diversity of providers, especially small and rural nonprofits, and may unintentionally increase administrative burden without improving outcomes for workers or the people they support.

We believe workforce improvements must be done with providers, fully funded, and designed to strengthen — not shrink — access to services. SB 1505, as currently written, does not meet that bar.

For these reasons, I respectfully urges the committee to oppose SB 1505.

Thank you for your time.