



Phone: 503-642-1581
Fax: 503-591-5577
Mail to: P.O. Box 6269
Aloha, OR 97007
4375 SW Edwards Place
Aloha, OR 97078
www.edwardscenter.org

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Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr and respected committee members,

SB1505 introduces additional administrative requirements and costs to a service system that is already strained. These changes would not improve outcomes for the individuals who rely on intellectual and developmental disability supports, nor for the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who provide those services.

Organizations such as Edwards Center strive to offer competitive wages and strong working conditions despite limited funding. We continually seek creative ways to attract and retain DSPs, whose work is both essential and chronically undervalued. Rather than strengthening supports for people with disabilities and the workforce that serves them, SB1505 would add new layers of complexity and financial burden to an already underfunded system.

The bill also shifts important decision-making authority over workplace and employment standards from elected representatives to an unelected board. At the same time, it diverts limited resources away from direct services and into administrative processes, legal exposure, and potential penalties—further reducing what is available for people who already receive too little support.

The individuals who rely on these services, and the professionals who provide them, depend on policies that prioritize stability, funding, and direct support. SB1505 does not advance those goals.

Sincerely,

Kimberli Spiegel

Director, Human Resources, Edward Center, Inc.