

Senator Jama and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong opposition to SB 1505**. I offer this perspective both as an employee of an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) service provider and as a family member of someone who receives IDD services.

Over the past several decades, Oregon has worked intentionally to ensure that people with IDD are not only heard, but meaningfully included in decisions that affect their lives. SB 1505 represents a significant shift away from that progress by **diminishing the collaborative, inclusive processes that currently exist**. The IDD system has developed robust mechanisms for stakeholder engagement that include self-advocates, family members, providers, union representatives, and state and county officials. These processes did not happen by accident—they are the result of countless hours of thoughtful work by ODDS and legacy providers. **Please do not pass legislation that removes or weakens these voices.**

Supporters of this bill suggest it will result in better wages for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). However, wages in the IDD system are fundamentally constrained by available rate funding. Providers, families, and advocates have been at the table for years pushing for increased funding specifically to support DSP wages. To suggest that this issue is newly being addressed through SB 1505 is misleading. Without full funding of rates, promises of wage increases cannot be guaranteed, regardless of bargaining structure.

Additionally, there have been previous funding increases that explicitly required wage pass-throughs to DSPs. It is inaccurate to suggest that providers have not passed along wage increases when funding has allowed for it. Any discussion of take-home pay must also acknowledge the impact of mandatory union dues. While a percentage such as 1.7% may seem modest, in real terms this can amount to \$15–\$20 per paycheck—money that, for many DSPs, can be the difference between covering basic living expenses such as rent or utilities.

**I urge you to vote NO on SB 1505.** The limited funding available should be directed where it has the greatest impact—into the wages of DSPs who provide hands-on care and essential support—not to an external entity removed from the daily realities of supporting people with IDD to live full and meaningful lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.