

Submitter: Jane Maritz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1505

Senator Jama and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose SB 1505.

I serve as Executive Director of Sunrise Enterprises in Douglas County, where for more than 55 years we have provided paid employment, job training, and support services for people with disabilities. Each year, we work alongside more than 130 individuals and their families to build real careers, confidence, and community connections.

The entire IDD community is standing opposed to this bill. Adding another costly layer of bureaucracy to services that are already heavily regulated does not help the people we serve. It diverts time, funding, and focus away from direct support and into administration.

Our system already has a strong, inclusive process for developing rules and policy. Self-advocates, family members, providers, union representatives, and state and county partners are all at the table. I participate in these processes regularly. They work because they are grounded in lived experience and local realities.

Reducing this collaborative process to 11 unelected individuals making sweeping decisions removes the voices of the very people most affected. It replaces shared accountability with distance and rigidity.

This bill also creates confusing wage and benefit standards that mean nothing without full legislative funding. It attempts to standardize services that are anything but standard. At Sunrise, every person's employment plan is built around their interests, strengths, and goals. Some participate in community integration activities, some work in retail, some in wood products, some in janitorial services, and some in placements at local businesses. No two paths look the same.

SB 1505 threatens that flexibility. It risks replacing individualized supports with one-size-fits-all rules that do not reflect how people actually live and work.

Providers already pass along rate increases to Direct Support Professionals. We do this because our staff are essential to quality services. The recent Rate and Wage Study confirms that providers are already paying wages above reimbursement levels. It also gives the Legislature clear, data-driven guidance on what sustainable funding

should look like.

You already invested in that study. You already have the information you need. Creating a new board to restate what you have already learned is not a responsible use of public dollars.

If the goal is higher wages and stronger services, the solution is direct investment. Not another layer of governance.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 1505. Do not place control of these vital, highly personalized services in the hands of an unelected board. Protect choice, flexibility, and community-based solutions that are working.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Oregonians with disabilities.

Sincerely,
Jane Maritz
Executive Director
Sunrise Enterprises
Roseburg and all of Douglas County, Oregon