

Senator Jama and Members of the Committee;

I am writing to strongly oppose SB 1505. Please note that the entire IDD Community is standing opposed to this bill including Chapters of The Arc across Oregon. Adding another costly layer of bureaucracy to services that are already heavily regulated does not benefit the people accessing these services.

The IDD community already has a very engaging process to develop rules and policy. Everyone is welcome. This includes self-advocates, family members, providers, union representatives and state and county officials. Please do not reduce this inclusive process to 11 unelected people making decisions about an industry they don't understand. The 11 person board includes minimal participation and input from the people receiving the services. In Oregon, the IDD community holds firm to making sure those accessing services are highly involved and supported to be involved in the development and implementation of the services they access. This value is not reflected in this board.

This bill will create confusing wage and benefit standards that mean nothing if not funded by the legislature. You already have the Rate and Wage study that you already paid for, which identifies the tools and information you need to fairly increase wages and benefits to a sustainable level. This bill also standardizes services that are anything but standard, as there are many different IDD services and each is uniquely designed to meet the needs and desires of the person using the service. Do not remove choice and individualism for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 1505. Do not allow an unelected board to take sweeping control of these services.

Sincerely,
Em Braman
Executive Director
The Arc Oregon