

Senator Jama and Members of the Committee;

Dear Senator,

As a provider of IDD services in Oregon I write to urge your strong opposition to SB 1505, Please note that the entire IDD Community is standing opposed to this bill. Adding another costly layer of bureaucracy to services that are already heavily regulated benefits no one.

Please know that SB 1505 delays, rather than delivers, meaningful wage investment. SB 1505 isn't about increased wages for workers and it fails to prioritize investing directly in wage increases. SB 1505 also provides false wage and benefit standards that mean nothing if not funded by the Legislature. Setting wage or benefit level standard that goes beyond what the State is currently funding is irresponsible and could have devastating consequences on Nonprofits and those we serve.

Providers already pass on any rate increases to their Direct Support Professionals. This is evidenced by the Rate and Wage study that shows an average wage that is well above what is being reimbursed. The Rate and Wage model also gives you the tools and information you need to fairly increase wages and benefits to a sustainable level. Don't waste funding on a board to tell you this. You already paid for the study. See [APD-ODDS Rate and Wage Study Findings and Recommendations](#).

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

Josh Bearman
TVW Inc.
Executive Director