



Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 1505.

For the record, my name is Dawn-Alisa Sadler, and I am the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Policy Manager for the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP). Our Association includes the Community Developmental Disability Programs (CDDPs) that provide I/DD case management services across all 36 counties.

Case managers who serve individuals with I/DD are a lifeline. They protect the health and safety of everyone on their caseload and ensure that those individuals receive the services they need. Whether it be finding a job, housing, or transportation, a case manager will always be there when called upon.

While we appreciate the outreach that the proponents of this bill have done, we are concerned about the proposed amendments to limit this bill to just the I/DD system. Our Association does not believe the intention of this amendment is to single out this system, but we fear that will be the end result should such language move forward.

AOCMHP does appreciate how this conversation has developed. But the creation of this new board would likely require additional administrative resources from within ODHS. Given that the bill will only focus on I/DD, any investments required into a new board will risk reducing funding for other essential programs within ODDS during this time of budgetary uncertainty.

Systems change for the I/DD system has historically been handled through either the agency regulatory or statutory processes. Such change allows for significant public involvement, and input from self-advocates and the communities that represent them. We fear that a privately appointed body would not offer the same opportunities for feedback and positive systems change.

We appreciate the ongoing conversations about this important concept, and share the desire of the proponents to ensure positive working conditions and wages for all who work in this system. But, we feel there is more work to do to ensure these goals are met for all while appropriately meeting the needs of individuals who experience an I/DD.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Dawn-Alisa Sadler - I/DD Policy Manager, AOCMHP