



Dear Chair Senator Kayse Jama, Vice-Chair Senator Bruce Starr and committee members, my name is Glenna Hayes and I am writing in today on behalf of Self-Advocates Taking Action. I am the support staff for the group and help with scheduling, admin and echoing the concerns, ideas and wisdom of some members. Self-Advocates Taking Action is a grass roots organization made up of members who have intellectual/developmental disabilities (ID/DD) in the Portland Metro area. They have been advocating against this bill for the last couple years since its inception and before LC numbers. They were approached by the union to discuss this bill and in good faith we joined in conversations with them about the focus of the bill and our concerns. **We want to make it clear, we are not anti-union. We are anti this specific bill.**

We hold deep concerns about this bill because it does not have adequate representation of the many people with disabilities that are within ID/DD communities. This bill originally covered 7 silos of providers with only 1 advocate with a disability to represent the 7 silos of service providers. We now feel that the focus being solely on ID/DD services is a strategic maneuver to bypass our concerns, get the foot in the door and force expansion to the other communities. This feels sneaky and not fully inclusive of our community, our wisdom or lived experiences.

Many of our members are also concerned that it is a governor-appointed board which has historically left out our community with more complex needs because while we have wisdom in our lived experiences we may not have what's needed on paper to be deemed qualified by establishments. Many of these appointed boards are inaccessible and tokenize people with disabilities or intersectional identities for their purpose and mission, instead of having the genuine inclusion of our community. We wonder if we would genuinely be included or would we just be a face in a room while people talk around us.

Our final concern is the budget and financial piece. This feels like a very bad time to be developing new concepts while we are begging the State and Federal government not to cut our services. Any funding we do have we need to circle back to the service areas being cut. The service areas we rely on to live. Now is not the time for funding to go into concepts like this when people are afraid if they will have health coverage, if they'll have enough in SACU to keep those services alive. We know we have a symbiotic relationship with providers, they deserve pay, benefits, and training. Which we always advocate for and will continue to. However, we cannot check out of our lives and needs. We can't stop being disabled. We need services to live, and we need collaborative solutions with us being at the table from the inception.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Vote no on SB1505!