



*a nonprofit organization assisting persons
with developmental disabilities
in the community*

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Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anna Keenan-Mudrick. I am the Executive Director of Community Access Services, a long-time Nonprofit Medicaid Provider Agency, serving Oregonians with Developmental Disabilities in Columbia, Hood River, Wasco, Marion and Portland Metro Tri Counties. I'm the proud Parent, Auntie and Sibling of a handful of amazing Oregonians with Autism. I started in this field as a Direct Support Professional 33 years ago, which further informs and fuels my relentless advocacy for our incredible workforce.

I am here today to voice my strong opposition to SB 1505, the Workforce bill

SB 1505 proposes an Alarming Homogenization of Pay, Positions, and Training Requirements

This proposed legislation standardizes Direct Support Professional pay structures, positions and training requirements; an approach that does not recognize the individuality in support needs and choices of those we serve, the corresponding individualized training needs of their DSPS, nor does it support DSP position specialization and customization within agencies that both support self-direction of those served, and provide opportunity, variety and upward promotional opportunities from within, which are unique to each agency, guided by customer choice, agency size, support need specialty, and geography of services provided.

SB 1505 calls for Regulation and Oversight Duplicative of Existing Laws and Regulatory Bodies

This bill seeks to provide regulation and oversight that would be absolutely redundant to, and potentially in conflict with existing laws, regulations and oversight bodies that help keep Oregonians safe in the workforce. This would add additional administrative cost burden and risk to an already highly regulated, markedly underfunded, increasingly fragile provider system.

What our Workforce Truly Needs – Protecting the DSP Wage Investment made last session

This proposed legislation is incredibly costly. Given the budget constraints we currently face, juxtaposed with how short of current ODDS rate model we are, (presently reimbursed at 70 - 71%), we implore you to focus your DSP Workforce Investment instead on sustaining, NOT delaying or cutting, the July 1st 2026 legislatively approved increase. This scheduled bump is URGENTLY needed. Further, you've already directed and funded an incredibly extensive cost study and corresponding rate model that provides us the data and analysis this bill now suggests they recreate. Another costly redundancy.

Our incredible, diverse, versatile yet grossly underappreciated and historically marginalized DSP workforce needs and deserves nothing less than fair, professional, robust pay and benefits for the varied, complex, and vital work that they do, every day. We are fervent advocates for these DSPs and seek to partner with you successfully again in the 2027/2029 session, to make further progress in



returning to 100% reimbursement of our what our legislatively directed ODDS funding model prescribes, so that we can more deservedly, robustly compensate them, and so that our critical systems of support can maintain, or in many cases, return to viability. Not allowing this bill to move forward is key to this effort.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our plea.

Humbly,

A. Keenan-Mudrick

Anna Keenan-Mudrick, MSW
Executive Director, Community Access Services