



February 4, 2026

To: Senator Jama, Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules

From: Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: Senate Bill 1505 (Oppose)

To Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition stands in strong opposition to Senate Bill 1505. We also oppose an amendment to focus the Board solely on the IDD system. It does not resolve the core problems or respond to the concerns of the IDD community.

The IDD community opposes this bill because

- (1) It will lead to loss of individual choice for people with IDD.
- (2) It cannot adequately represent the interests of either persons with IDD or the workforce that supports them.
- (3) It gives sweeping authority to an unelected Board; and
- (4) The administrative costs are far too great.

Loss of Choice

Developmental disabilities services are not delivered in factories, hospitals, or centralized workplaces. They are delivered one person at a time, in private homes, family homes, and small community-based settings. A one-size-fits-all workforce standards model is fundamentally mismatched to this reality. The workforce standards dictated by this Board will undermine person-centered and highly individualized service delivery. It will limit the ability of individuals with IDD to build support arrangements that work for them.

Lack of Representation

Two individuals with disabilities on an 11-member body remains a small minority, when weighed against well-resourced labor, employer, and government representatives. Two seats cannot credibly reflect the extraordinary breadth of lived experience of people with intellectual disabilities, autism, complex medical needs, behavioral support needs, and different methods of communication.



The Board also fails to address a basic reality of the IDD workforce: Personal Support Workers (PSWs), Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) staff, and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are not situated the same way. PSWs and SACU staff are largely unionized--whereas DSPs are not. As a result, DSP interests will not be represented.

Families have no guaranteed voice at all.

Sweeping Authority

The Board is empowered to establish standards affecting wages, benefits, training, staffing, and working conditions across the entire IDD system—yet lacks the accountability of a public agency. A single public hearing—that is all this bill requires.

Conclusion

- How can people with IDD participate meaningfully on an 11-member Board when they hold only two seats? **They can't.**
- How is labor fully represented when PSWs, SACU staff, and DSPs have different perspectives? **It isn't.**
- How do centralized standards reflect individual, in-home supports without shrinking choice? **They don't.**
- How will one public hearing be enough to consult with the public on sweeping cumulative standards? **It won't.**
- And why, at a time of unprecedented uncertainty for Medicaid, is Oregon singling out the DD system for this experiment? **It should not.**

The HCBS Workforce Standards Board promises to destabilize services for Oregonians with developmental disabilities. We must seek solutions that work collaboratively with the IDD community and stabilize services for people with developmental disabilities in an already uncertain budget environment. We should not be spending millions of dollars on an IDD workforce Board, while searching desperately for the money to protect basic services.

Please vote “no” on SB 1505. Thank you for your consideration.

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is a group of approximately 30 organizations across Oregon that promote quality services, equity, and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. Our members include the Oregon Self-Advocacy Coalition (a statewide coalition of people with I/DD or “self-advocates”), peer-based family support organizations, support services brokerages, advocacy organizations, and developmental disability providers.