



Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1507. For the record, my name is John Mullin, and I am a member of the Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO). HSCO is a coalition representing over 50 human services-aligned organizations across Oregon that join together to promote the dignity of all Oregonians through improved public policy and strengthened support for human services.

As we all know, Oregon is in the midst of budgetary challenges. The cost to administer Medicaid and SNAP - two programs that many Oregonians rely on - are set to increase dramatically. Federal support that our state has come to rely on has been reduced in multiple other places. And, we need to constitutionally balance our budget.

HSCO does not envy the tough choices that this Legislature will need to make. Given our focus on holistic human services funding to support the Oregonians who need it the most, our coalition made the decision to endorse efforts to disconnect. This decision would free up resources available to keep our neighbors and communities from falling through the cracks of our social safety net.

When significant changes are made to federal funding structure, alongside serious economic shocks, Oregon feels the impact. HSCO also believes that maintaining critical human services infrastructure during times of economic and budgetary uncertainty set our state up for the best possible recovery.

SB 1507 and Oregon's efforts to disconnect from portions of the federal tax code will help our state do just that.

Our coalition urges the Legislature's support of SB 1507, and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Mullin