



Providing 70+ years of advocacy, service, and support.

February 6, 2026

To: House Committee on Transportation

RE: Please Support HB 4085 – Advancing Transportation Independence for Oregonians with Disabilities

Dear Chair McLain, Vice-Chair Boshart Davis and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of the Arc Portland Metro, in support of HB 4085. This legislation creates an opportunity for Oregon to authorize autonomous vehicle services with profound implications for transportation equity ranging from new pathways to independence and employment to full community participation for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For 70 years, the Arc Portland Metro has stood up for rights, well-being, and inclusion of people with diverse abilities in Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas Counties. Our mission is breaking down barriers created by ableism and building a community where everyone feels valued, supported, and at home.

Transportation remains one of the most persistent barriers to independence and community participation for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. When reliable, accessible transportation is unavailable, people face isolation, missed employment and social opportunities.

If the Oregon Legislature passes HB 4085, we believe this technology could provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities:

Enhanced Personal Choice and Autonomy: For many individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the ability to come and go freely—to visit friends, attend activities, or simply run errands without coordinating rides through others—remains out of reach due to driving limitations or the complexity of public transit navigation. Autonomous vehicles with accessible, user-friendly technology could put that power of choice directly in people's hands, supporting the self-directed lives they deserve.

Access to Employment: Reliable transportation is critical to maintaining employment. For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities seeking competitive, integrated employment, the ability to commute independently and reliably can make the difference between economic opportunity and dependency.

Connection to Community Life: The Arc Portland Metro hosts social programs and events year round that bring people together and celebrate community. Reliable, on-demand

transportation means people can participate in these social connections, recreational activities, healthcare appointments, and the everyday experiences that make life meaningful. By supporting HB 4085, Oregon can lead in creating innovative solutions, expanding access, improving safety, and honoring dignity and full participation of all community members. We encourage you to vote yes on HB 4085.

Sincerely,

Kelly Thran
Executive Director
The Arc Portland Metro

6929 NE Halsey St, Portland, OR 97213-5316 • 503-223-7279 • Fax 503-223-1488

www.thearcpx.org Like The Arc Portland Metro on Facebook!

A 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation