

February 9, 2026

Oregon State Legislature Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301
Submitted electronically via OLIS

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

For the record, my name is Coleen Carey. I am here today to testify in support of SB 1507, and more specifically, for Oregon taking a thoughtful approach to revenue policy, not adopting provisions of federal law that don't align with Oregon values. I am here today as an Oregonian, and the mom of a 20-year-old daughter who experiences intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD).

The first few years of Julia's life are a blur of doctors, therapists, insurance companies, caregivers... What is clear to me, though, as I look back is how heavily we relied upon the I/DD services we received as part of the Oregon Health Plan to get through those difficult times:

- From the in-home nurse, who guided me when I couldn't place my newborn daughter's feeding tube
- to the Speech Pathologist who provided food thickeners and a specialized feeding chair to keep her from aspirating
- to Physical and Occupational Therapists who procured necessary equipment and provided treatment to help her achieve the highest level of independence and quality of life
- and the case manager who helped us find resources every time our traditional insurance company said no to things we knew our daughter desperately needed.

These are just some of the examples of services provided by the Oregon Health Plan that aren't nice-to-haves; they are a LIFELINE that helps families like ours keep our children at home and sets the tone for a future of life in our communities.

As the Joint Committee on Ways & Means heard during testimony last week, the cuts scenarios outlined by agencies in November included eliminating programs that Oregonians with disabilities rely on each day. Specifically, services within ODHS for people with Autism Level 1 and the parental income disregard program. In many cases, these programs and services allow people to remain in their homes and allow parents to continue in the workforce. Eliminating these programs will likely cost the state more by forcing people into institutionalized care and requiring parents to quit work to provide full time care.

By disconnecting from federal tax policy, and only preserving provisions that make sense for Oregon, you can preserve revenue that funds education, health care and human services that Oregonians – like my daughter rely on.

Taking this thoughtful approach, Oregon can preserve **nearly \$300M in funding** to prevent cuts to programs Oregonians care about, like education and healthcare for children, seniors, low income families, and people with disabilities.

You may have heard the phrase “Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value” – as you work to finalize this bill, please don't forget that this is not about numbers and dollars and cents – it's about human beings, kids, Oregonians, our neighbors and your constituents. I urge your strong support for SB 1507.

Coleen Carey

Advocate, Disability Rights Oregon