






GO! BULLETIN



It takes just a few moments to contact your legislators and share your story about why continued funding of Developmental Disability Services is important to you...

Please contact your **STATE & FEDERAL** Legislators

<p>STATE ADVOCACY</p> 	<p>FEDERAL ADVOCACY</p> 	
<p>Contact Oregon State Legislators to request Continued Service Funding Levels for DD Services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Case Management •Family Networks •Fairview Housing Trust •Raise DSP Wages 	<p>Contact United States Legislators to request Continuation of the Affordable Care Act which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pre-Existing Conditions Coverage •No Lifetime Benefits Caps •K Plan Funding for Medicaid Services such as attendant care, home modifications and vital services for children and families. 	
<p>You have ONE State Senator ONE State Representative</p>		<p>You have ONE US Representative TWO US Senators*</p>

To find your State Senator and State Representative, use the link below:
www.oregonlegislature.gov/findyourlegislator/leg-districts.html .

*Oregon has TWO US Senators: [Jeff Merkely](#) and [Ron Wyden](#)

Sharing Your Story

We believe that our state and our nation are strongest when everyone has the supports they need to live full lives as active members of their local community.

This session we are asking legislators to fully fund DD Services to protect the health and safety of Oregonians with IDD, and their access to a full life at home, work and in their community by providing the right services in the right amount at the right time - No more, no less.

When contacting legislators, begin by providing your name, the city you live in and why you care about DD services. We suggest that you include a request for continued funding for DD Services, along with a sentence or two about what services have made a positive difference in your life with a quick example about how the services help you. Include a request that the legislator supports Oregonians with Developmental Disabilities through continued funding. End with an expression of appreciation.

If you want to share a copy of your story with the Coalition, you can also email it to oregoniddcoalition@gmail.com. We would love to read your thoughts about the importance of funding developmental disability services in Oregon.

State Budget Process Continues

The process of building the state's biennial budget for 2017-19 keeps moving forward!

One important source of input the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means consider are the periodic revenue forecasts, because they give them an idea of the revenues the state is projecting for the 2017-19 biennium.

Last week, legislators from the both the Senate and House committees on Finance and Revenue met in a joint session to receive the March 2017 Revenue Forecast from the state's economists.

Good news . . . Oregon's economic and revenue outlook are tracking well, even with the uncertainty coming from potential policy changes at the federal level. By the time the next biennium rolls starts, the revenue forecast predicted an additional \$200 million would be available to help fill the state's \$1.8 billion budget shortfall. The state has also built up its reserves, which will help stabilize revenues going forward.

The May revenue forecast, which will be released on May 16th and will include April income tax return revenues, will be the final reference point for the legislature as it finalizes the budget for the 2017-19 biennium.

Word around the Capitol is that the co-Chairs might release a more detailed budget in follow-up to their high level budget by mid-March. We will keep you informed as we hear more!

Advocacy in Action at the State Budget Road Shows



The Joint Committee on Ways and Means "Budget Road Shows" have been traveling across the state to get input on the state budget issues.

They were in Ashland and Eugene this past weekend, and were again greeted by dozens of advocates wearing yellow who were ready to share stories about the importance of developmental disability services in their lives!

Christina Howard described the scene, "As soon I walked into the meeting space, I saw community members and DD clients proudly advocating with 'Support DD Services' signs, shirts and stickers."

In Eugene, one young advocate who did not get an opportunity to give testimony shared his disappointment with a Ways & Means Committee Member who reassured the boy that it was okay because they were wearing yellow, and the Committee knows what that means!

There is one more opportunity to attend a road show event to provide input on budget priorities.

For those of you who live on the coast, this might be near enough that you could easily attend! The last stop on the road show tour is scheduled to be in Tillamook on Friday, March 3rd at 6:00 pm at the Port of Tillamook Bay.

Please connect with the "host" from the local Family Network who will be on site to provide you with rally signs, fact sheets, advocacy stickers and more. If you are on social media, please register on the IDD Coalition's Facebook [event link](#) for details on this final road show event.

Please arrive at least an hour early because the sign-up sheet to give a two-minute testimony fills up quickly. Even if you don't plan to give testimony, your presence at these events, wearing and/or waving yellow items shows legislators DD Services funding is important.

If you are not able to give testimony in person: Please email your testimony about the importance of funding DD Services at continued service levels

Start the Week with DD Advocacy Day at the Capitol!

Join us in advocacy during the 2017 Legislative Session at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem. The Oregon Intellectual Developmental Disability Coalition's GO Project Advocacy Team will be there to offer information, training and support.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27
10AM to 2PM
Room 167A

Focus on Direct Support Professional (DSP) Wages

We are asking legislators to fund a living wage to stabilize the DSP workforce that keeps Oregonians with I/DD healthy and safe while they live, learn, work and age in our communities.

2017 Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Services Funding Priority
DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL (DSP) WAGES

Provider Perspective:
We want to provide services that keep people healthy and safe, but cannot do that with wages too low to keep staff.

Self-Advocate Perspective:
Using support services is very personal. It takes time to build trust and it is hard when DSPs change so often.

DSP Perspective:
I love supporting people to live safe and full lives in their communities, but I can't afford to do it and support my family.

Family Perspective:
When agencies are unable to keep or hire staff, the service quality goes down and our family member suffers.

Fund a living wage to stabilize the DSP workforce that supports Oregonians with I/DD to be healthy and safe while they live, learn, work and age in our communities.

Many DSPs cannot afford to stay.

Turnover and workforce shortages jeopardize the health and safety of Oregonians with I/DD.

Important Data

- ✓ 1,400 open DSP positions exist
- ✓ DSPs work overtime to cover vacancies.
- ✓ \$11.23/hour average wage for DSPs.

Everyone deserves to be a part of their community.
People with Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities are most successful in their communities when they can access a variety of services that embrace the diversity of people's needs and goals across their lifespan.

Published by the Oregon Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Coalition's GO! Project | www.oregoniddcoalition.org | 2017

Schedule visits with your State Senator and State Representative to discuss the importance of DD Services. Check in at the DD Advocacy Headquarters before and after your visits. Remember to wear yellow to show unity in our advocacy!

Each Advocacy Day includes:

- 11AM Training overview on the legislature and meeting your legislator
- Support to practice your talking points for your legislative meeting
- Support to get to your legislator's office and debrief after your meeting

Also mark your calendar for Monday 3/20, 4/10, 5/1, 5/22 and 6/12

Policy Bills and Upcoming Hearings of Interest This Week:

Below are some of the bills we are tracking with hearings coming up this week. You can view the current [Coalition Priority Bills Report](#) to stay updated.

February 27th - Monday

- 1:00 pm / HR D: **Senate Committee on Human Services** is holding a public hearing on [SB 268](#), which requires the Department of Human Services and law enforcement agencies to investigate reports of abuse that occur in "non-family settings" such as school or in educational settings or that are made by school employees.
- 3:00 pm / HR F: **House Committee on Education** hearings:
 - Public hearing on [HB 2657](#), which establishes a Task Force on Out-of-School Youth.
 - Informational Hearing on "Youth Re-engagement" with a presentation by the Youth Development Council.
- 3:00 pm / HR E: **House Committee on Health Care** public hearing on [HB 2451](#), which establishes medical assistance eligibility for individuals under age 26 who have aged out of foster care in Oregon or another state.
- 3:00 pm / HR A: **Senate Committee on Workforce** public hearing on [SB 828](#), which requires an employer to pay an employee the equivalent of at least four hours of work if an employee is scheduled or called in to work but, due to the employer, does not work entire shift.

February 28th - Tuesday

- 8:30 AM / H-170: **Joint Committee on Ways and Means (Education Subcommittee)** starting "Phase 1" of Oregon Department of Education agency budget presentations: [SB 5516](#) ("Grant in Aid" budget); [SB 5517](#) (State School Fund budget).
- 8:30 AM / HR A: **Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue** - [SB 123](#), which authorizes the formation of children's special revenue districts.
- 1:00 PM / HR D: **House Committee on Early Childhood and Family Supports** will be having an Informational Hearing on "Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative" with testimony from Mary Louise McClintock, Director of Education Programs, Oregon Community Foundation and others.
- 1:00 PM / HR 343: **House Committee on Judiciary** hearings on several guardianship bills we're tracking:
 - [HB 2776](#) authorizes the appointment of a guardian for person with a disability who is in need of guardianship; requires the guardian to enforce the rights of the protected person to receive visitors, telephone calls, personal mail and electronic communications.
 - [HB 2217](#) creates the "Falk-Alfano Act," relating to a protected person's rights, including their rights of communication, visitation or interaction with other persons.
 - [HB 2630](#) makes changes to Oregon guardianship laws to assure adequate safeguards for respondents and protected persons.

March 1st - Wednesday

- 8:30 AM / H-170: **Joint Committee on Ways and Means (Education Subcommittee)** continues "Phase 1" of Oregon Department of Education agency budget presentations: [SB 5516](#) ("Grant in Aid" budget); [SB 5517](#) (State School Fund budget).

- 1:00 PM / HR D: **Senate Committee on Human Services:**
 - Public hearing on [SB 231A](#) establishing a task force on Student Mental Health Support.
 - Work sessions on [SB 275](#) (relating to requests for copy of health information for individual appealing denial of Social Security disability benefits) and [SB 104](#) (modifies provisions relating to registry of persons who provide care in certain facilities).
- 3:00 pm / HR C: **House Committee on Education** informational hearing on the "State Longitudinal Data System," which is something that state agencies have been working on developing for many years.

March 2nd - Thursday

- 8:30 AM / H-170: **Joint Committee on Ways and Means (Education Subcommittee)** continuing "Phase 1" of Oregon Department of Education agency budget presentations: [SB 5516](#) ("Grant in Aid" budget); [SB 5517](#) (State School Fund budget)

Interested in tracking bills and hearings?

- Use the Oregon Legislature's [Capitol e-Subscribe](#) service to receive bill alerts for individual bills as they move through the legislative process, receive committee agendas, news from members of the legislative body and more.
- You can also watch or listen to live or archived [video and audio](#) of Oregon Senate and House chamber sessions and Committee hearings.

Read the National DD Advocacy Alert GO Bulletin!

The Grassroots Oregon Project is now publishing a separate GO! Bulletin to keep you informed about advocacy action needed to protect federal funding for essential services. Watch for the next National News GO! Bulletin for updates!

Email:

oregoniddcoalition@gmail.com

Website:

www.oregoniddcoalition.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/OregonIDDCoalition/>