



GO! LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 28, 2011

BUDGET

Last Tuesday night, individuals with developmental disabilities, families, providers, and others filled three hearing rooms for the Ways and Means Public Hearing on the DD budget. Panel after panel of people testified about the impact of the proposed budget cuts on programs and services that support individuals and families. The Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee members sat listening for almost 3 hours, sometimes with tears in their eyes, as people described the consequences of the proposed loss of services. The testimony was powerful! The message was clear! These lifespan services are vital for health, safety, and quality of life of individuals and families. While the DD community is strong, proud, and committed, many of these cuts will result in ultimately more expensive alternatives. Several members of the Subcommittee vowed to try to restore some of the proposed reductions.

The Co-Chairs' budget is expected to be released at the end of the week. This budget document is not expected to be very detailed but will give us a better idea of the Ways and Means Committee's response to the Governor's proposed budget.

You can hear the testimony at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/listn/>. Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services, Hearing Room F, Tuesday, March 23, 2011.

ACTIVITIES AT THE CAPITOL THIS WEEK:

HB 2600 – The bill that puts Adult Support Services (Staley) into statute is expected to pass out of the House Human Services Committee on Monday, March 28th. If the amendments are not prepared in time, it will be rescheduled to Wednesday, March 30th.

HB 3434 – The Fairview Trust bill is also scheduled to be heard Monday, March 28th. This bill was drafted when DHS proposed to eliminate the entire trust and it was designed to provide an opportunity for public discussion on the issue. At this point, the Governor's budget recommends taking \$7 million dollars or over 50% of the Trust. This bill would allow the Trust to be tapped for about \$3.1 million and would require that the funding be restored at a later time.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We continue to encourage you to visit and write legislators about the impact of the reductions in the DD budget. Almost 100 people visited the Capitol the week of the 14th of March to talk about the

DD cuts. We can't let up!! While we do not have a specific room reserved with materials, let us know you are coming and we will try to assist while you are in the building. Contact info@oregonddcoalition.org. Talking points, legislative lists, and fact sheets can be downloaded from the DD Coalition website, use the Quick Links below.

HB 2939 - Seclusion and Restraint is still stuck in the House Education Subcommittee. Continue to let members of the House Education Subcommittee know how important it is to protect people with disabilities from inappropriate seclusion and restraint in schools.

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