

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

September 11, 2025

Diana Diaz
Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Diaz,

We write regarding the appeal to reinstate a Community Parent Resource Centers grant award (H328C210016) for the Central Oregon Disability Support Network, Inc. (CODSN). Since 2004, CODSN has provided essential peer support for families raising children with disabilities in rural Oregon. The sudden termination of this funding not only jeopardizes critical services that nearly 4,100 families rely on, but also significantly reduces educational opportunities for disabled children in eight rural counties – Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, and Wheeler – in Oregon.

In many of these areas, disability services are scarce and accessing the few services that are available often means driving several hours one way. CODSN helps fill this gap with local, trusted advocates who understand the obstacles families face because they themselves have faced similar challenges in their own lives.

CODSN's services help vulnerable families navigate complex systems, advocate for their children, and set these children on a path to do the things most of us take for granted: earn a degree, begin a career, and gain their independence. Because of their work, CODSN has helped create stronger families and individuals who are less reliant on state and federal systems.

Furthermore, CODSN states that its work is not only impactful to countless families, but it also fully aligns with the Education Department's requirements set forth under IDEA Part D §§1471–1472, which specifically call for services to “*underserved parents of children with disabilities, including low income parents, parents of limited English proficient children, and parents with disabilities,*” as well as for “*families who experience significant isolation from available sources of information and support.*” CODSN believes that the program not only meets those requirements, but also directly advances the Department's fundamental mission to “*promote student achievement ... by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*”

Terminating this grant fundamentally undercuts that mission and leaves thousands of rural families, who are already too often overlooked, without a lifeline they have come to trust and depend on to ensure their children's success.

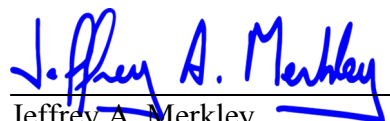
Accordingly, we urge the Department to consider immediately reinstating the Community Parent Resource Center grant funding for CODSN. CODSN has a proven track record of delivering results that empower families, reduce long-term public costs, build local capacity, and foster

educational excellence in rural Oregon. At a time when rural communities in Oregon and across the nation face growing challenges, we ask that you consider restoring the vital support they desperately need and rightfully deserve. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this request, consistent with applicable statute and agency guidelines.

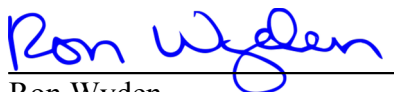
Sincerely,



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator