



1/23/25

County Councilors and State Legislators:

**The Clark County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board is opposed to House Bill 1158 and Senate Bill 5428 as currently drafted.** We urge policymakers to preserve the current Community Inclusion structure, which builds on the well-established county infrastructure and ensures individuals receive high-quality services through providers supported by local oversight and expertise.

**The bill would duplicate already existing infrastructure, impact 2300 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities statewide and 192 people here in Clark County. It would further destabilize community-based service providers and dismantle decades of investment by the legislature.**

HB-1158 would remove local County oversight and individualized services provided under Washington State's Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) waivers for people with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities, or IDD. The administration is subsidized by local property taxes that should also remain under local control. The individualized service is Community Inclusion, which develops strategies for those with waivers in community-based activities like volunteering and participating in clubs. This includes building relationships with fellow community members who are not paid to be there. These services can already be offered in groups of two or three based on the preferences and interests of the individuals receiving the services. In addition to supporting individuals to participate in their local communities, community-based service providers research community opportunities, assess accessibility, coordinate with local groups and develop tools to support the individual's successful participation in the community. These outreach activities and supports are very important work and should continue to be supported.

As part of the current structure, oversight and recruitment of local providers was purposely positioned within each County throughout Washington State. HB-1158 would adversely impact Community Inclusion and institutionalize a support that should remain profoundly local in scope. Our attention should remain on greater independence and inclusion at the local level, tailored individually by local professionals with local County oversight. Simply stated, Community Inclusion should provide for a Meaningful Day.

Sincerely,

Susan Cassady  
Clark County Developmental Disability Board Chair