

# PLEASE VOTE YES ON HB 4042

## PROVIDES IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

*People with disabilities risk greater hardship when federal approval for Social Security disability benefits takes a long time. Many of these individuals can no longer work as a result of a disabling injury. Approval of benefits can take up to 2 years, a lifetime for someone that is homeless. Their physical condition may worsen, family or personal relations may strain if they have any, and mental health may suffer greater emotional trauma. The General Assistance program was designed to help this vulnerable population but fell victim to budget cuts, leaving many at risk for a decade. The program saves the State of Oregon from more costly acute care.*

### *What does HB 4042 do?*

Provides immediate assistance to disabled and homeless individuals by a partial restoration of the General Assistance program. Assistance is limited to 200 cases monthly, targeting Presumptive Medicaid eligible individuals that are homeless. Individuals must open a disability application to be eligible for a housing voucher, utilities assistance, incidental cash, and limited case management to help access other services, such as food and health. The Social Security Administration approves about 80 percent of applications. The State of Oregon will be reimbursed by the federal government for all or a portion of the benefits the individual receives.

### *What is the cost?*

The Dept. of Human Services estimates the cost to be \$1.7 million for the 2015-17 biennium. Oregon will recover up to 80 percent of the cost by the federal government.

### *Who supports the bill?*

AARP of Oregon - Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities - ASSIST Program - Central City Concern - Community Action Partnership of Oregon - Disability Rights Oregon - Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon - Housing Alliance - Northwest Pilot Project - Oregon Associations of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities - Oregon Center for Christian Voices - Oregon Food Bank - Oregon Law Center - Oregon Opportunity Network - Oregon Women's Rights Coalition - Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon - Partnership for Safety and Justice - ShelterCare - Street Roots - Welcome Home



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### Contact Information

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From the Desk of State  
Representative Duane Stark

Handwritten signature of Duane Stark