

Rochelle, Eugene
House District 14
Group Home Worker

Val T. Hoyle

From the Desk of
Representative
Val Hoyle

SR 1532

My name is Rochelle, and I am 60 years old. I live alone in a manufactured home which I own, in a mobile home park for people 55 and older and I pay \$474/month to rent the space.

I work in a group home owned by a nonprofit, the swing shift, 3-10pm, Sunday-Thursday. I like this schedule, however I would like to work more hours. I work about 36 ½ hours a week.

I earn \$12.40/hour, get full medical benefits paid for and I am forced to also have dental coverage for which I pay half the monthly cost (I don't want to have this insurance because of the cost). I also accrue Earned Time Off which I can use for paid leave for illness or vacation.

For the first 8 years that I worked for this company, I received regular raises. Seven years ago that stopped. Finally, in July 2015, I wrote a letter to my state representative about the situation and coincidentally (or not) I did receive a 50 cent raise after that, which brought me to my current rate of \$12.40/hour. The company has promised another raise of 75 cents next year.

I earn too much to be eligible for public assistance. I don't have enough money to pay for heat in the winter or to buy enough food. Although I own my manufactured home and car with no loans, I still have huge credit card debt.

If I were to earn more, I would pay off my debt, be able to afford more food, and not worry about winter electrical bills.