

To: Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee
Date: February 15, 2017
Subject: Senate Bill 238
From: Desiree Raber
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Hi my name is Desiree Raber. I live in the community and I am supported by Partnerships in Community Living (PCL) here in Salem, Oregon. PCL provides support to me in my home and community. Growing up I did not learn to read or write. With the help of my staff, Angelique Radford, I am testifying today to ask for more money for my staff. Because I don't read, Angelique helped me to come up with questions that I'm using to help me to remember what I want to say to you. What I need you to know, because the staff who support me are not paid enough to live on, they often leave me. This scares me, because I need to trust the people who help me. And it is hard to trust someone you haven't known very long. My staff leave often for jobs that can pay more. It hurts to see them go. They help me with my everyday life, including giving me medications, helping with my money, cooking, and getting out into my community.

The questions that Angelique will ask are below, and my brief responses are included. When I testify I think my answers will be longer.

Tell me why you wanted to be here today?

I want to get staff more money so they don't leave me.

Why is your staff important to you and others who may need support?

They help me live a life that I want. They take care of me, support my interests, provide me a safe home, support me in the community, and my daily needs.

Can you share the kind of support you need from your staff?

Keep me safe when I'm scared, meds, appointments, transportation, be with my friends, and family, and stuff.

How do you feel when your staff leave?

I feel if my staff leave; I don't know what I would do. It's hard to learn to trust again.

Thank you for your time, I hope you can do something to help me and other people in my situation.