



July 5, 2017

House Bill 2684A is the collective effort of the Oregon Resource Association (ORA), Community Providers Association of Oregon (CPAO) and Service Employees International Union (SEIU), convened by Rep. Keny-Guyer and monitored by Rep. Piluso, Rep. Hack and Sen. Gelser.

Our interest was to find consensus on policy considerations, and most importantly, to advocate for fair and competitive wages for the approximately 14,000 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who work in group homes supporting adults and children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. A stable and qualified workforce is a critical element of care for those who need their assistance to live a full, inclusive, life. However, poverty wages are forcing many to choose jobs with higher wages in order to support themselves and their families.

The group met for six weeks to negotiate the final provisions of this bill. HB 2684A, represents our ongoing commitment to quality services for people who live in comprehensive residential services as well as fair and competitive wages for DSPs across Oregon. The final agreed to provisions include:

- Language to support higher DSP wages to reduce turnover and stabilize the workforce
- An increase in licensing fees, from which the funds will be dedicated to online accredited training for DSPs, providing opportunities for certification and a career ladder
- Additional transparency requirements, maintaining our long term commitment to transparency and accountability
- A commitment to continue discussions during the interim to review the protective service system, including abuse findings, fines, and resulting consequences.

We believe the final product reflects an important investment in our DSPs and our State provider partners, and will enhance current transparency and reporting practices.

Thank you,

Oregon Resource Association (ORA)

Community Provider Alliance of Oregon (CPAO)

Service Employee International Union (SEIU)