

From: [Juan Diaz](#)
To: [JWMHS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Oregon Direct Support Professional Testimony
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 5:19:21 PM

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee for Human Services,

I am a Direct Support Professional working in Oregon for a Medicaid Credentialed Provider Agency, serving individuals who experience developmental disabilities. I am asking you to amend House Bill 5026 to include the Policy Option proposal I/DD 126, Workforce Expansion and Development.

This field means a lot to me and I value the opportunity to work with my clients. However, as the cost of living has risen, I struggle to pay my bills with the current wage levels and I am being forced by economic pressures to consider taking employment outside of this field.

I fear that my clients will end up homeless, or at the ER or hospital more frequently without my supports to ensure they keep their housing and take their medications. However, I am in a financially non-sustainable position without an increase to funding that increases my wages.

Please amend House Bill 5026 to include Policy Option proposal I/DD 126, Workforce Expansion and Development.

Respectfully,

DSP/Provider name:JuanDiaz
Date:2/26/19