



### **Testimony Resubmitted, 4/12/2021**

**To:** Co-Chairs Lieber and Nosse and members of the committee  
**From:** Alice and Dennis Scofield, family members of person supported by PCL  
**Date:** April 13, 2021  
**Subject:** SB 5529, HB 2964

Joint Ways and Means Sub Committee on Human Services, co-chairs Lieber and Nosse, we are Alice and Dennis Scofield; our daughter Karina for the past year lives in a PCL group home here in Salem. For her first 36 years Karina lived in our home receiving all support and care from Alice and myself. This experience places us in the unique position of understanding the level of commitment, skills, dedication and personal sacrifice required to successfully deliver support to a disabled individual.

In March of 2020 Karina moved to a PCL group home, 2 weeks later the Covid 19 pandemic locked down the home effectively locking Alice and myself out. Due to the pandemic, we depended on continuous communication with Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) at the 44<sup>th</sup> street home. The DSPs were (and still are) critical in maintaining the health and safety for the vulnerable individuals in their care while still providing essential support, dignity and life enrichment in an isolated environment. They demonstrate a consistent high level of professionalism, dedication and skill that far exceeds any minimum wage position. The DSPs at PCL are true professionals, utilizing people management skills, situation awareness and creative problem solving to deliver an incredible level of human service. Through pandemic, ice storms, power outages, routine medical appointments, hospital emergency room visits, and day after day of life experiences DSPs ensure a healthy, safe, and engaging environment for our daughter.

Maintaining the same level of funding will not sustain the same level of service. To continue delivery of the current level of service additional funding is necessary. PCL and other similar organizations are continuously challenged to recruit and retaining qualified DSPs while paying less than the local burger shop or Amazon, additional funding is absolutely critical.

We support bill Senate and House Bills SB5529, and HB2964 which help to provide competitive wages for Direct Support Professionals and encourage you do the same for Oregon DSPs support.

Thank You for your time, Dennis and Alice Scofield