

To the Chair and Members of the House Committee on Human Services,

My name is David Marvin, and I am an Executive Director of a Medicaid in-home provider agency employing the in-home provider agency DSP workforce. I would like to express my support for HB 2964, which will ensure DSP wages remain competitive with the rising minimum wage. I would like to humbly request that an amendment to the bill be made to include the in-home provider agency DSP workforce alongside the residential DSP workforce. 76% of Oregonians that have intellectual and developmental disabilities live in these settings.

I have always heard that if you look at someone's checkbook you can see what is important to them. With the bill as it currently stands, it tells Oregonians and people with disabilities, that you would rather have them in a residential home, than to be integrated in society. DSP wage increases are essential for in-home providers. In Home providers are the most cost-effective way to support our most vulnerable population. It is vital to promote individual choice and fund services that include those delivered in the least restrictive settings.

Without an increase to DSP wages, providers will leave their jobs, customers in need will not get the quality care that they deserve. I promise you that where things are currently and with how underfunded (Burns and Associates) the in-home provider agencies are, people with disabilities will suffer greatly and some people will even die. Its not a matter of if but when. The reality is, when you are only able to pay someone minimum wage, quality of service will suffer immensely.

I support the passage of this bill to allow DSPs in both residential and the in-home provider agency settings to be compensated for their highly skilled work with some of our most vulnerable citizens. Please consider adding an amendment to this bill that includes the in-home provider agency DSP workforce. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

David Marvin