

Submitter: Angie Temple  
On Behalf Of: Nichole Adamson  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services  
Measure: HB2500

First of all we wanted to thank the committee for your time and effort working to improve the lives of our developmentally delayed daughter and her friends here in VERY rural Oregon.

We live 48 miles from the town of Burns. This distance severely limits our ability to recruit "local" personal support workers or PSWs to help in caring for our 21 year old daughter Emma.

There is not a public transportation option here, no bus, so a PSW having a commute of 48 miles, one way and making a bit more than minimum wage, those miles add up for the employee and are a challenge to recruit and keep PSWs long term. And long term is crucial to building a trusting relationship and stable environment for clients.

A program to help PSWs with transportation to/from rural clients would be greatly appreciated. It would allow our daughter to continue to be cared for at home, with her family. Having a PSW supporting Emma allows her to grow, work and be more involved in her community. Living a fulfilling life more independently, more like her regular ability peers and siblings!

Emma says that having a PSW come to help her at home and having someone to help her around town is way better than hanging out with her Mom all the time! She is happy to be living at home but she wants to be able to get out and about too. She gets to have a friend to do things with and keep her involved and going to work!

This bill would be a great blessing to DD clients in rural areas.

Thank you!