

Submitter: Dewey McGahey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

Hi there, my name is Luke. I have been in the social services field for roughly 5 years, I started as an SSA at 13/hr, and depending on my position I have seen my wages rise to 18/hr. I currently work at Pearl Buck Center as a job developer. At the time of writing this, I get paid 16/hr. I live very frugally and I am still one bad paycheck away from having to utilize the services that I have put all of my working hours into. I work with so many incredible people that genuinely deserve more. Thankfully I am a single person with no children but I could not imagine supporting a family on these wages. I barely scrape by as is. In order to lift our communities up we need more social workers, and no one wants to do these jobs with inadequate pay. If you want to solve the problems that this state is struggling with, you have to pay your workers more. I know you're all trying to make Oregon better, but we need action.