

Submitter: Joy Duncan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

To Whom it May Concern,

This bill is crucial in keeping talented, compassionate employees in this line of work. Turnover is high because of the wage not adjusting to cost of living in Portland Metro Area. Direct Support Professionals are the heart of our work with individuals with disabilities. We have had several staff leave this line of work with the only reason stated being compensation. This is even with us paying our DSPs \$20 an hour (that being at the very high end of what agencies pay.) If we were able to raise the wage we can keep highly qualified employees from seeking employment in other fields of work. The time for this is more important than ever with the COVID pandemic and the rising cost of living. We sincerely hope that this will be changed to allow the individuals we serve a better experience by keeping those long working relationships and avoiding unnecessary turnover (when the job satisfaction is high but employees can't afford to live alone and work in this line of work.)