

Submitter: Ali Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

I am Ali Brown, Policy and Compliance Director at Pathway Enterprises, Inc., an organization that supports over 100 people who experience disabilities in their homes, at work, and in their communities. 75 of our 160 employees are Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). DSPs are the backbone of the work that we do, and the individuals we serve rely on them to live their best life.

The critical work DSP's do is complicated and complex, and is often paid less than fast food employees. Current reimbursements for these services are built around cost studies that are now years old and don't reflect the current market. Even when rate models are fully funded, they aren't because the data is irrelevant. Your support to pass HB 2457 will show your investment to DSPs wages, and assist providers in closing the gap on the on-going workforce crisis.

DSPs deserve a living wage, and Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities receiving services deserve staff who are fairly compensated for the care they provide to many of Oregon's most vulnerable citizens.

Please vote yes on HB 2457. DSP's, the people they support and their families are counting on your support!