

Submitter: Kirsten Kapple

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

My name is Kirsten Kapple and I work as a Direct Support Professional for Partnerships in Community Living.

I am writing today in support of HB2457. This bill is crucial to me and my peers as it will raise DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage and cover Paid Leave Oregon Payroll expenses. DSP's such as myself are working 80+ hour work weeks, not only as that's what is necessary for us to make a living wage with our current pay rate, but also because the turnover rate is extremely high. We continue to lose great staff as they cannot sustain the lifestyle of working in such as a high stress field with low income for as many hours necessary. The DSP's that are left in turn are needing to work an exuberant amount over overtime to ensure the people we support are having their needs met. However, this leads to well-meaning DSP's feeling burnt out, tired, less enthusiastic about their job which of course effects the lives of the people we are supporting greatly. The work that we do as DSP's is not minimum wage work. We are counselors, medical professionals, advocates and so much more rolled into one position. To ensure the people we support are able to receive the best care from DSP's, it is vital we are able to have wages that match the work we are doing. Please support HB2457.

Thank you for your consideration.