

January 8, 2023

My name is:

Sara Davis

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Dear Early Childhood and Human Services Committee Hearing,

My name is Sara Davis I am writing you to support **Oregon's HB 2457**, please support this to reduce turnover and create a living wage for DSP's (Direct support professionals).

We can no longer turn our back on Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (IDD). The safety and security of Oregonians with Developmental Disabilities relies on current funding levels. These vulnerable adults need your help.

- DSP vacancy rate of 23% Turnover is extremely high & stifles supports
- DSP wages rose significantly after you agreed to fund the current rate model last session. Thank you for this investment. We would not have survived without it and we need to protect and enhance this investment going forward.
- The pandemic and changing workforce has continued to erode our progress on wages. Even though providers consistently pay wages above the amount that is funded, we still struggle to hire and retain employees. This complicated, critical work is often paid less than fast food employees
- Per a recent ORA survey, 85% of providers are no longer accepting referrals to serve new people and 86% have reduced capacity or closed services and anticipate closing additional services

My brother Ron has IDD, over the past 15 years we have struggled for Ron to have his own life. We have battled child abuse, physical abuse, and financial exploitation. To do this we had to go through the court system and found a wonderful provider Living Opportunities who partnership with us to get Ron first in a group home and then eventually in his own apartment. Ron is now a hardworking tax payer, who pays his bills and lives in his apartment with his dog Chewy. But he also needs support with cooking, cleaning, hygiene, managing his money and many other daily tasks. Without hardworking DSP's my Brother could not live alone in his apartment.

**Please take action to save DSP who work with my brother.**  
**Support Oregon's HB 2457,**

Thank you for your time. I hope I can count on you for your support and I look forward to hearing back from you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely  
Sara Davis