

Submitter: Jesse Belcher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

Good Morning,

My name is Jesse Belcher, Executive Director of Oregon Supported Living Program, an agency that supports roughly 75 people with disabilities, with roughly 200 employees in Lane County. I am writing in support of HB 2457. It ensures that our dedicated support staff get the wages they deserve, by moving DSP wages to 150% of the minimum wage and covering the PLO payroll expense. DSP wages rose significantly after you agreed to fund the current rate model during the last session. Thank you for this investment. We would not have made it through the pandemic without it, and we need to protect and enhance that investment moving forward. We are consistently paying wages that are above the amount funded in order to keep up with the upward pressure on wages we have seen in the last couple of years. This complicated and critically important work often competes with fast food when it comes to wages. The current rate model is built on out of date wage data, so even though the model is fully funded, the costs built in to it are significantly behind the market. Please vote Yes on HB2457. DSPs, the people they support and their families are counting on your support!

Thank you!!!