

Submitter: Mary Stewart
On Behalf Of: DSP workers in Oregon that work at non profit
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure: HB2457

I am currently a DSP for The Pearl Buck Center. I work with several (8) clients as their job coach. I love my job and enjoy working with my clients every day. However, I have to work two jobs to make ends meet because my salary is not enough to just work as a job coach. I feel that for the work that I do along with other DSP professionals that work for non profit organizations aren't getting a fare wage. I feel that with a fare wage, it would help individuals and people like myself to be less stressed and there will be a lower turn over rate. There will be more DSPs to service individuals that need our care. When one can start at a fast food restaurant for the same or higher wage as someone providing the essential service that we do, it's sad. I am committed to my job and my clients and there are many other individuals that feel the same way. We make an impact on our clients, but more than anything, they make an impact on us. I have applied and gotten an interview with a higher payed, state run organization, but when it came down to it, I realized that I have an obligation to the individuals that I serve and the thought of letting them down broke my heart. Even making 6 or more dollars less an hour, I am committed to them. Without us, they wouldn't have jobs and learn new skills or be an asset to their community. They wouldn't know their valued and appreciated for all their hard work and for some, that they have a purpose.
Thank you.