

Submitter: jerrica williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

I have devoted a good part of my life to support folks with I/DD in Central Oregon and have worked with opportunity foundation almost 4 years now. Before this in care homes and doing in-home supports. Please support HB 2457! Direct Support Professionals deserve a living wage that can allow us to support our families while we provide this service to our Oregon Community. Many of our staff at Opportunity Foundation are single parents and they should be able to support their families on the wages from a full time job. We are more often than not found short staffed as most people would prefer to work an easier job at the same rate of pay, leaving those of us who work in this field quickly burning out. Last session you voted to fund the current wage model which was a great and necessary step without which we wouldn't have survived. However, Covid has hit many homes hard and we have been unable to secure enough staffing even with previous wage increases. Times have changed. Wages have changed across the spectrum of employment. Please protect and enhance this investment Oregon's future, so that we can keep supporting the individuals we support to live their best and fullest lives. PLEASE VOTE YES!