

Submitter: Mary Rosas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

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Mary Rosas

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To: Early Childhood and Human Services Committee

**HIGH IMPORTANCE! Please Support HB2457**

I am Mary Rosas, and I work at Living Opportunities, an organization that supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Jackson County. The people we support rely on Direct Support Professionals to live and thrive in their community.

I am writing this morning in support of HB 2457. This bill ensures that DSP's get the wages they deserve, by moving DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage and covering the Paid Leave Oregon Payroll Expense.

Last session you agreed to the current rate model, and we saw DSP wages rise in thanks to that. Thank you for this investment! We would not have survived without it, and it is imperative that we continue to protect and enhance wages for DSP's going forward so that we can hire and retain staff. High turnover is unfortunately the cost of low wages, and the individuals we support struggle because of it. DSP's deserve a living wage, and people with IDD deserve consistent care from people they trust and with whom they have built relationships.

Current reimbursements for these services were built on cost studies that are now years old, so even though service rate models are fully funded, the costs built into these models are significantly behind the current market.

Please vote yes on HB 2457. DSP's, the people they support, and their families need your support!

Thank you,  
Mary Rosas