

Submitter: Jess Sweeney

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

To whom it may concern,

I work with Pearl Buck Center in Eugene, OR. My position is Community Employment Assistant Manager. My team and I support individuals with IDD in their community integrated places of employment. We help the individuals to build their job skills, thrive within their employment settings, and learn how to recognize and utilize natural supports. We also assist the employees with any barriers they may be facing when it comes to completing their tasks. Supported employment allows individuals with IDD the opportunity to be a crucial part of their community, which we all know is a very basic need. My biggest struggle to date, is being able to retain the staffing that we have due to low wages. In the end who this hurts the most are the individuals we serve. Please take consideration in passing this bill, there are incredible members of YOUR community that rely on the services it will help fund! Thank you for your time, Jessica Sweeney