

Submitter: Kela Hall

On Behalf Of: OSLP and myself

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

I've been working as a DSP since 2016 and I started with a wage just above the minimum wage for that year.

Since we've been getting a few raises over the past few years, I'm able to both save money and support myself/family despite the cost of living continuing to increase here in Oregon.

I'm in support of this bill as it will help people living in Oregon and it will help align us better with the current housing crisis as rent continues to increase and there's not enough affordable housing for single dwelling families.

I believe that increasing our wages is an investment into our communities and for the future of Oregon and we should be compensated correctly. We provide assistance to individuals with their basic needs and we need quality employees to do the work. As a DSP we shouldn't be in the category of a fast food worker or gas station attendant, as we're involved with far more involved work when it comes to supporting another human. It takes patience, compassion, specialized training, a decent background check and work history, being able to drive, having an open availability to work, and just be friendly. Not just anyone can walk in and do this type of work in comparison to a gas station attendant or grocery store worker.

There needs to be hope for the future and it starts at the bottom!