

Submitter: Sierra Snyder

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human  
Services

Measure: HB5026

February 28, 2023

I write to offer my support for a fully funded I/DD budget. The change of fully funding the I/DD system in 2021, was a great help by increasing the wages for DSP's by \$1.25 an hour. (current average reimbursement wage for DSP's at \$17.81) In the last two years since the change, inflation and cost of living has quickly risen. The DSP wage is quickly becoming an average paying job, even though the work is not for an average person. I fully believe DSP's hold unique skillsets such as patience, and compassion that not everyone has. Currently we struggle with staff shortages, that affect the individuals we care for as well as the quality of care they receive. To help solve this staffing crisis, I urge you to support:

? ODDS's POP 132 – Targeted Rate Increase estimated to cost \$162M

? Includes wage inflation and rate increases that bring DSP wages in payment category 1 to \$19.36, payment category 2 to \$20.38, and to \$22.42 in payment category 4 in the first year of the biennium. Increases the health insurance assumption to \$628.45 (currently \$525) per employee per month and adds the 0.4% employer Paid Leave Oregon payroll tax pick-up.

? HB 2457 – 150% of Minimum Wage + 1% Paid Leave Oregon Pick-up estimated to cost \$116.9M

? This bill will make further investments into DSP wages. HB 2457 statutorily sets DSP wages across the state at

150% of the metro minimum wage and includes the full 1% Paid Leave Oregon

pick up (.4% Employer + .6% Employee pick-up).

Please consider this strategy to increase DSP wages to help solve the staffing crisis we are facing to help us continue the care for our I/DD programs.

With hope and appreciation,

Sierra Snyder