

Submitter: k a

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB5026

Co-Chair Campos and Valderrama,

I write to offer my support for a fully funded I/DD budget. As a DSP, I worked two full times job to support myself and my family, to still come up short at the end of the month. Seeing and hearing of coworkers who do this work to support those who need it and hearing that their children make more than they do working at Walmart and McDonalds just does not make sense whatsoever. Why is it that in a field where you are actively supporting someone and ensuring that they have a good quality of life, your pay is not reflected or valued.

We are constantly dealing with work place turnover and shortages due to the pay, we want and need to feel valued!

I specifically 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 – because DSP work is not minimum wage work! 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 value the work and raise the wage!