

Sen. Wlnsvey Campos, Co-Chair
Rep. Andrea Valderrama, Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
Support for HB 5026 – DHS Budget and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

March 1, 2023

Co-Chair Campos and Valderrama,

Please prioritize DD wages and support full funding of IDD services in HB 5026. I am asking that you not only protect your previous investment, but that you continue to help move this workforce out of crisis by supporting HB 2457 - it moves DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage

Additional increases in wages are needed to address the current workforce shortage.

Please protect your investment and continue fully funding I/DD rates while prioritizing DSPs!

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).

Help us rebuild this much needed workforce, and help to make it feel like this can be a career that is appreciated.

Please value the work and raise the wage!

Respectfully submitted,

Sasha Gazley

Executive Director
Step Forward Activities, Inc.