

Submitter: Andrea Snider

On Behalf
Of: Lifempowered

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

Measure: HB5026

Sen. Winsvery Campos, Co-Chair

Rep. Andrea Valderrama, Co-Chair

Members of the Join Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human
Services

Support for HB 5026 - DHS Budget and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Co-Chair Campos and Valderrama,

I am writing to offer my support for a fully funded I/DD budget. I know that in 2021 the legislature made historic investments in services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and for the first time the I/DD was fully FUNDED. This did increase wages for DSP'S for only \$1.25 an hour which brought up to (current average reimbursement at \$17.81.) We still struggle with staff shortages cause of the wages that we make. We must continue to move the DSP workforce out of crisis. Increase in wages are needed to address the current workforce shortage.

Please protect the investment and continue to fully fund I/DD rates while prioritizing DSP's.

The ODDS's POP 132 A targeted Rate Increase that is estimated to cost \$162M, with that includes,

wage inflation and rate increases that bring DSP wages in payment category 1 to \$19.36, payment category 2 to \$20.38 and in category 4 to \$22.42 in the first year of the biennium. It will increase the health insurance assumption to \$628.45 (It is currently at \$525.00) per employee per month and adds the 0.4% employer Paid Leave Oregon tax pick-up.

HB 2457- 150% of Minimum wage + 1% of Paid Leave Oregon Pick-up is estimated to cost \$116.9M.

This bill will make further investments into DSP wages, because DSP work is not minimum wage work! 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 that the DSP's do and raise the wage!

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Snider

