

Submitter: Marci Kallinger

On Behalf Of: Ron Wilson Center For Effective Living

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

Measure: HB5026

Sen. Winsvey Campos, Co-Chair

Rep. Andrea Valderrama, Co-Chair

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services;

I am writing to offer my support for a fully funded IDD budget. I am the Executive Director for a non-profit that provides housing and many types of services for people who have Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities so I know first-hand how critical having a fully funded budget is.

I recognize that in 2021 there were historic investments made in our IDD system but we need your help to continue to move us out of a workforce crisis. It is my understanding that some of the top legislative priorities are houselessness and Mental Health. This is literally what we do! Providers like RWC are all over Oregon providing people with housing and services, including mental and behavioral health services. Many of us have had to reduce our capacity due to a workforce shortage. Our DSP's are on the frontline and the important and difficult work they do with and for people every day is worth way more than minimum wage. If we valued the work of DSP's even more and were able to move out of this workforce crisis, we could help more people in Oregon by providing them with the housing and services they need. This is why I am asking you to prioritize IDD wages by supporting the full funding of IDD Services in HB 5026 and the ODDS POP 132. Additionally, by supporting HB 2457 which gets our DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage, you could help us get our workforce out of crisis and agencies like RWC could begin increasing their capacity to provide housing and IDD services to more people in our great state.

Respectfully,

Marci Kallinger

Executive Director

Ron Wilson Center