

Submitter: Brianna Lanyon

On Behalf Of: Umpqua Homes Inc

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

Measure: SB5525

I've worked in direct support for about 7 years now. I started out as a caregiver but wanted to do more. Being a direct care professional is a very rewarding job. It's hard but it's so worth it. I got in to this field because I love helping people. Supporting them in ways they never had before. Encouraging growth and watching them do things they once thought was impossible. DSP's work really hard for the little they get in return. We go to work to take care of supported, making sure they are healthy and safe while still achieving all the goals they wish to accomplish. We are more than just caregivers. We don't do things for people, we encourage and help our supported do things on their own. Which means in return we have to work through behaviors and struggles to get them to be where they want to be. Then we go home to our families and make sure our kids are taken care of and they are happy and flourishing in everything they doing. All while just barely getting by. It's really trying times right now. Ever since Covid we have been bearing down just trying to make ends meet. We are held at the same standard as healthcare workers but yet our pay is nearly half. We deserve more.