

Submitter: Cindy Stockton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of funding POP 132 and SB5506 to support rate and subsequent wage increases for Direct Support Professionals (DSP's). DSP's support Oregon's most vulnerable citizens and their wages are not keeping up with inflation nor do they reflect the incredibly difficult jobs they do. Their wages are 100% controlled by the legislative body. When we cannot recruit and retain employees, the people we support - your constituents - suffer. Can you imagine waking up in the morning and the person in your home who is going to support you to shower and get ready for your day is nearly a stranger? Turnover and low staffing is destabilizing the comprehensive provider system. I wonder where you think these people will go if the comprehensive provider network fails... This important work deserves a living wage. If you "Value the Work, Raise DSP Wages"! Thank you.