

February 4, 2026



Good morning, Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Janet Yousey, and I have the privilege of serving as CEO at Shangri-La. Annually, we support 1000 people with disabilities and families with disadvantages. *I strongly oppose SB 1505.*

I have to ask, who is this bill for? *It's certainly not for the people we support.* In fact, if passed, this bill will take power out of the hands of people with disabilities and raise their staff and their staff needs above their own. As an employer, we continuously try to balance the needs of the people we serve and the staff who do this work. But this is a precarious balance, and this bill will tip the scales away from people with disabilities.

So, is the bill for the staff of people with disabilities? The incredible, hard-working DSPs who support people with disabilities day-in and day-out? Showing up on the best and the worst days? The bill claims to be for DSPs, but we already support our DSPs above and beyond the requirements in this bill. You should know that most non-organized provider agencies already pay *above* unionized organizations. Our priority has always been pushing as much money towards DSPs as possible. In fact, our *starting* pay is already above the *average* wage that's funded in our rate model.

Or, is this bill for SEIU, as a power grab for more members and more control?

I have a few additional concerns:

This bill proposes a slew of new additional regulations in an already highly regulated industry.

- We are currently regulated by CMS, OHA, ODDS, BOLI, independent financial auditors, and more. We do not need an *additional* regulating body.

Finally, this bill has no clear path to increase DSP wages. Yet, this is something we have been literally begging for for years.

- *And we already have all the information we need to increase rates and wages now.* As you've likely heard, the wage study shows our services are approximately 30% underfunded.
- So, if the legislature wishes to support nonprofit organizations providing services to people with disabilities, we *need predictable, consistent support in the form of a cost-of-living adjustment every year AND direct investment in the DSP workforce.*

Please oppose SB 1505.

Thank you,
Janet Yousey, CEO
Shangri-La

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