

To the Chair and Members of the House Committee on Human Services,

As the director of a Medicaid in-home provider agency employing the in-home provider agency DSP workforce, I would like to express my support for HB 2964, which will ensure DSP wages remain competitive with the rising minimum wage. I request that an amendment to the bill be made to include the in-home provider agency DSP workforce alongside the residential DSP workforce. “In-home provider agency” means an entity certified and endorsed by the Department of Human Services to provide community based developmental disability services.

The in-home provider agency DSP workforce serves a substantial number of Oregonians and provides support to ensure the health and safety of participants who live independently or in a family home. In fact, 76% of all Oregonians who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities live in these settings. In-home provider agency services are cost effective and provide critical support for those who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is crucial to maintain this service option to promote individual choice and fund services that include those delivered in the least restrictive settings.

I support the passage of this bill to allow DSPs in both residential and the in-home provider agency settings to be compensated for their highly skilled work with some of our most vulnerable citizens. Please consider adding an amendment to this bill that includes the in-home provider agency DSP workforce.

Your work on the behalf of Oregonians experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities who choose to live outside of residential facilities in this way is greatly appreciated and desperately needed. The individuals my in-home provider agency, Ability Training Services, serve value their right to choose where to live. Having the DSP workforce who serve individuals using the in-home agency option funded and protected legislatively, at the same level as DSPs in residential facilities, is vital to keeping the in-home agency option open.

Thank you for your time and concern,

Jaison Ochoa
DSP
Ability Training Services