

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee.

My name is Leah Hays, and I am the director of an agency that staffs a small team of amazing Direct Support Professionals. I am here to urge you to prioritize funding for Developmental Disability Services, and more specifically in DSP Wages, DD Case Management and Regional Family Networks. At the current rate DSP's are reimbursed we are unable to offer health insurance benefits, it is my hope that an increased wage would allow more agencies such as mine to create employment opportunities that people can rely on for years, providing consistency for our clients and less employee turnover.

Family Networks, Direct Support Professionals and DD Case Managers have provided essential lifelines to Oregonians with disabilities and their families during these very uncertain times. Please fund these vital programs to ensure these vulnerable people have the supports they need, when they need them.

Thank you!