

My name is Linda Akagi. I have cerebral palsy and I work at the Portland State University as a research assistant for the Universal Design lab. I help people with communication devices so they can talk.

I would like to ask a question. Can we raise the amount for direct support workers because they are doing a lot for people who need them? This is important to us and important to them because they would like to grow in other fields like nursing and medical.

This is important work for them to grow up the ladder. I think it is an important piece to their education to be helpful and supportive and put it on their work history.

It's hard to find good people to work in this field. Please raise their wages so we can have good staff supporting us. It is so difficult for me as a working woman when my DSPs are understaffed. Thank you for listening to my concerns.