

Submitter: Justin Hagerty

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB646

There are many families just like mine across the State of Oregon. Families of children with developmental delays who struggle to meet their children's needs because the allotted supports from the Department of Human Services go unfulfilled. This is due to a lack of adequately trained personal support workers.

Over the last two years, I have been permitted to fill the much-needed role as a paid parent of a minor child due to the pandemic health emergency (PHE). We are now seeing the PHE come to an end. However, the urgent need for adequate support for our children simply does not come to an end. Our children will continue needing the support and as time passes those needs will continue to increase.

Not only is the state removing my pay when the PHE ends and expecting me to return to work off the clock. They are also creating a crisis because all paid parent providers will have to find employment elsewhere to ensure their financial obligations are met. Their Mother will be required to split her time between our two children. As a natural support, she will be expected to be in two places at once and be required to work off the clock as well.

We are counting on your support to ensure SB646 becomes law. Please allow me to resume my position as my minor child's paid parent provider or personal support worker. It is my hope that I can continue to keep him safe in his home environment surrounded by his loving supportive family and out of an institution.