

February 6, 2023

PLEASE VOTE YES ON HB 2457

As a member of the Board of Directors for the non-profit Central Oregon Collective, I am deeply concerned about how difficult it is for us to attract and retain dedicated, caring staff for about 30 Oregon citizens with disabilities that we support in group homes in Deschutes County.

HB 2457 would ensure that our staff would make at least 150% of minimum wage. This is critical for our residents, who need specialized care and 24/7 monitoring. We can't compete with entry level businesses (like fast food and tourist-based) who already offer higher-than-minimum-wages and still tend to have high turnover. Our residents need to know and trust that their caregivers will always be there, and HB 2457 would enable us to appropriately staff and provide that level of support, without key employees needing to work large amounts of overtime and getting burned out.

Thank you for your support in the past, and we are hoping for your continued support going forward.

Becky Ozrelic