



Re: HB2457

My name is Kathy Burke, Executive Director for AbleLight an organization that supports about 170 people with disabilities and a staff of approximately 150 employees who call Oregon home.

I am writing in support of HB2457. It ensures DSP's get the wages they deserve, by moving DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage and covering the Paid Leave Oregon Payroll Expense. DSP wages rose significantly after you agreed to find the current rate model last session. Thank you for this investment going forward. The pandemic and changing workforce has continues to erode our progress on wages. Even though providers consistently pay wages above the amount funded, we still struggle to hire and retain employees. This complicated, critical work is often paid less than fast food employees. Current reimbursements for these services were built on cost studies that are now years old, so even though service rate models are fully funded, the costs built into these models are significantly behind the current market.

Please vote yes on HB2457. DSPs, the people they support, and the families are counting on your support.

**This link provides more information about the**

**bill:** <https://oregonresource.box.com/s/of9s49qupwlqozg44qize9w65mxpde4n>

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Burke".

Director, AbleLight Oregon