

## **Living Opportunities Support HB 2457**

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf and Committee Members,

Living Opportunities is one of the largest service providers to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Southern Oregon. We meet basic needs and provide services to hundreds of individuals of all ages.

Developmental disabilities include intellectual impairment, autism, cerebral palsy, seizure disorders, and other neurological conditions. At Living Opportunities, we all aspire to the same goal: that the individuals who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities live with dignity and experience meaningful work and rewarding careers.

**As the Chief Executive Officer of this wonderful organization, I am writing in support HB 2457.**

It ensures that DSPs get the wages they deserve, by moving DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage and covering the Paid Leave Oregon Payroll Expense.

As you are well aware, we are all facing economic headwinds, with hiring a dedicated workforce being among the greatest challenges, especially in areas such as Southern Oregon, where the pool of potential candidates is smaller than in the Portland-Metro area or the Mid-Willamette Valley. The work required is person-centered and critical to those we serve, yet the average fast-food employee can make more per hour. We are left recruiting those with a true heart for service, but we desperately need a wage that can help us retain them.

Please vote yes on HB 2457. Organizations like Living Opportunities need your support so that we can continue to provide support for those who need it the most.

Sincerely,

Amber Robles Myre

CEO – Living Opportunities