

Submitter: Misty Noble

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

My name is Misty Noble and I am submitting a testimony In support of Bill HB 2547. I have over 10 years in this field supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I work in a nonprofit organization, (PCL)- Partnerships In Community Living as a Service Team Coordinator, PCL has provided excellent services and support to Oregon and it's communities for over 35 years.

PCL provides these services in eight counties including Marion, Polk, Benton, Josephine, Jackson, Linn, Yamhill, and Lane. We employ over 500 Direct Support Professionals – known as DSPs. DSPs are essential in meeting our mission of, "Expanding the horizons and enhancing the quality of life of those we support." DSPs are on the front line and are integral to the person-centered services that organizations like PCL provide. For too long this essential role has been undervalued and underpaid.

PCL has over 100 position openings for DSP positions in these areas. I believe recruiting and retention would see higher percent rates if bill HB 2547 were to pass giving us the opportunity to catch up with other providers competitive pay for DSP's. YOU would be helping to expanding the horizons and enhancing the lives of people supported as well as the lives of our DSP's. This would stimulate growth in our community for so many. Our DSP's deserve to be paid at a competitive rate amongst other DSP positions in the state and closing that gap in pay equity. We can start now together.