

Submitter: Amy Ryan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

February 7, 2023

Testimony in support of HB 2457

My name is Amy Ryan, Senior Manager of Human Resources for Central Oregon Collective, a not-for-profit organization that supports about 30 Oregon citizens with disabilities and 50 staff in Deschutes County.

I am writing in support of HB 2457. This bill would ensure that our staff would make 150% of minimum wage, as well as covers the increase cost from the Paid Leave Oregon Payroll Expense.

The staffing crisis throughout the US has negatively impacted businesses, however in Central Oregon we have a very small market of applicants and the cost of living is higher than in the metropolitan areas, making it difficult to hire and retain staff for our Direct Support Professionals who take care of our clients with special needs, which is a necessary service that cannot be cut back on.

Last session you provided funding for the rate model. Thank you so much for that investment as it kept our doors open. This bill allows us to pay staff competitive wages now and ongoing (we are already paying more than \$4.00 an hour over the rate model in order to attract and keep staff) in our counties toughest staffing crisis to date.

Please vote yes on HB 2457. Our staff and the people they support are counting on your support!