

230 SE Stevenson Ave.  
Myrtle Creek, Oregon 97457  
February 7, 2023

Hello,

I am Donna K. Hunter, the parent of an adult autistic 47 year old man. My son has lived in Douglas County Oregon his entire life. We are very familiar with services that have been offered to disabled individuals in Oregon. I taught for over 30 years in Douglas county, working with many disabled individuals and have recently served on the board of Sunrise Enterprises. Our large county faces many challenges trying to recruit and retain qualified DSPs.

I am writing in support of HB 2457. This bill could help insure that the DSPs get the wages they deserve by moving the DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage. I understand that it would also cover the Paid Leave Oregon Payroll Expense. Attracting and keeping good workers has been problematic especially during and after the pandemic. It is difficult when one can drive up to nearby fast food restaurants displaying help wanted signs offering higher wages than we can provide! It does take a special individual to work with the disabled population even though the rewards are great when one has success! It is a challenge for the disabled population to constantly adapt to dealing with a changing group of DSPs. It is complicated but critical work to deal with the disabled population.

Please give your full consideration to voting yes on HB 2457. You are advocating for people that are so often not able to advocate for themselves.

Thank you for your help! I am willing to answer questions or concerns if you wish to learn more about the needs of the individual that need your concern and help.

Donna K. Hunter  
Parent, Board Member of Sunrise Enterprises, former teacher at South Umpqua School District

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