



Good afternoon,

I am writing because we need your help. ORA's bill (HB 2457) that increases wages for our Direct Support Professionals to 150% of the minimum wage has a hearing on Wednesday. It must pass to ensure the stability of our critical workforce serving Oregonians with disabilities.

At TVW, we serve 150 people with Disabilities, those living with Mental Illness, Developmental, and other disabilities. The people who do the direct coaching and support are skilled professionals that deserve a sustainable wage. (HB 2457) is the start of ensuring that the work is valued, sustainable, and attractive to future professionals entering the field.

Covid and the ongoing labor shortage crisis have left us searching for employees. At the same time, inflation and the increase in wage-based competition continue to create hiring challenges across the state and in the metro area. As more Oregonians with Disabilities are born or move to our state, more DSPs will be needed. It makes this bill beyond important in an already impossibly competitive market. Stabilizing and creating a long-term method to fund DSP work creates a long-term workforce for those in need.

We ask that you pass HB 2457 to ensure agencies that support people with disabilities can continue to recruit, maintain, and develop the future workforce that supports Oregonians with disabilities.

This link provides more information about the

bill: <https://oregonresource.box.com/s/of9s49gupwlqozg44qize9w65mxxpde4n>

Thank you for your time and attention. Please help make a lasting impact.

Best regards,

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