

Submitter: Riley Adamson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

I am Riley Adamson, I work in a life skills academy as an instructor, helping people with IDD learn the skills they want/need to live their lives to the fullest, as independently as possible. I'm newer to this part of the workforce, but seeing the impact we have on the people we serve is incredibly fulfilling. The amount of people who think they can't do this, or that, because they've never had anyone pay attention to the way they learn is astounding. The amount of emotional turmoil a lot of the IDD community encounters on a daily basis is immense, we have a chance to help them with that and lead happier lives. How do I choose between helping them, and supporting my family? As it stands I can't choose to do both, and it's heartbreaking.

I am writing in support of HB 2457 that insures that DSPs get the wages they need and deserve by moving the wages to 150% of the minimum wage of the portland metro area and covers the paid leave Oregon payroll expense.

Please vote yes on HB 2457. DSPs need this wage increase because as it stands, we are losing much of the workforce just due to the fact no one can survive on a full time job that pays as low as this does currently. Especially with how hard times have gotten for everyone. If we lose these DSPs, we don't just lose them as part of this workforce, we lose the ability to support the IDD community a little bit with each DSP lost. The DSPs who love supporting these individuals, the individuals themselves, and their families are all counting on your support! We can't do this without you.