

Submitter: Lona Boudon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

My name is Lona Boudon and I work as a Service Team Coordinator for Partnerships in Community Living.

I am writing today in support of HB2457. This bill is crucial for me and my peers as it will raise DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage and cover Paid Leave Oregon Payroll expenses. I was previously a DSP for 8 years. As a mother of four, it was extremely difficult to support my own family while working 80+ hours each week to ensure the people we support at PCL are also getting their needs met. With a high turnover rate from DSP's unable to sustain this amount of work for low pay, I have seen hundreds of amazing staff leave this field to find higher wages. It is essential to raise DSP wages so that Oregonians living with disabilities are able to have the care they need, and the hard working people that support them are also able to support themselves and their families. As a STC now I am often working 80+ DSP hours a month as we are still in critical need of staff. The work that we do as DSP's is not minimum wage work. They are counselors, medical professionals, advocates and so much more rolled into one position. To ensure the people we support are able to receive the best care from DSP's, it is vital we are able to have wages that match the work we are doing. Please support HB2457.

Thank you for your consideration.