



February 8, 2023

To Whom it May Concerned:

My name is Gina Braden. I am the VP of Operations at Alliance Services, an organization that supports about 213 people with disabilities and 282 staff (DSP's). I am writing in support of HB 2457. It ensures that DSPs get the wages they deserve that will reflect the difficult work, by moving DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage and covering the Paid Leave Oregon Payroll Expense.

DSP wages rose significantly after you agreed to fund the current rate model last session. Thank you for this investment this has been greatly appreciated and we have seen the needle move in getting some people back to work and having our families cared for. We would not have survived without it and we need to protect and enhance this investment going forward. The pandemic and changing workforce has continued to erode our progress on wages. Even though providers like us consistently pay wages above the amount that is funded, we still struggle to hire and retain employees. This complicated, critical work is often paid less or comparable to that of fast food employees.

Current reimbursements for these services were built on cost studies that are now years old, so even though service rate models are fully funded, the costs built into these models are significantly behind the current market. I have linked a flier below that highlights these key points and shows how DSP wages consistently trend above the reimbursement rate.

Please vote yes on HB 2457. DSPs, the people they support and their families are counting on your support.

**This link provides more information about the bill:** <https://oregonresource.box.com/s/of9s49qupwlqozg44qize9w65mxpde4n>

Thank you very much!

Respectfully,



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*Together we provide personal and empathetic support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, removing barriers so they can discover their best selves.*