

Submitter: Travis Gonden

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

February 9, 2023

Testimony in support of HB 2457

My name is Travis Gonden, I'm a Direct Support Professional at Central Oregon Collective, a not-for-profit organization that supports about 30 Oregon citizens with disabilities and 50 staff in Deschutes County.

I am writing in support of HB 2457. This bill would ensure that I would make 150% of minimum wage, as well as covers the increase cost from the Paid Leave Oregon Payroll Expense.

Last session you provided funding for the current rate model. Thank you so much for that investment as it kept the doors open. This bill allows them to pay me competitive wages now (currently \$20.00/hr). If passed, I could use the additional income to maintain transportation to and from work, have extra to spend on health care, and some additional funds to spend on myself (fun and leisure) to stay positive and helpful while supporting individuals at work. As well as have more time off to prevent burn out from the 12 hour shifts.

Please vote yes on HB 2457. My colleagues and I are counting on your support in passing this bill.

Thank you for your time and vote!