

Submitter: Gary Collins

On Behalf Of: Pearl Buck Center

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

My name is Gary Collins and I'm the current Treasurer and a 3 year+ Board member of the Pearl Buck Center located in Eugene, OR. I'm writing in support of HB 2457 to ensure that DSP's get the wages they deserve, by moving DSP wages to 150% of minimum wages. Earning a living wage is critical for all and given the impact inflation has had on wages, Pearl Buck in Eugene is finding it very challenging to recruit and retain DSPs. Pearl Buck is currently serving approximately 50% fewer IDD clients today vs. the time prior to the Pandemic. The reduction in clients being served is not a demand problem because the need to support families with love ones born with IDD hasn't decreased. It's a supply problem. We can't supply enough DSP's because we can't recruit and retain DSP's given current wages. DSP's are a critical component to fulfilling our mission of caring for people with various abilities to ensure they can live healthy lives. Please vote yes and support this bill. Thank you!!