

Submitter: Kristi Nelson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

Dear lawmakers,

My name is Kristi Nelson, and I am a Direct Support Professional at Pearl Buck Center in Eugene, Oregon. I work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and I have seen firsthand the difficulties that come with working in this field.

I have been in this line of work for 12 years and I am proud of the work I do. I take care of individuals who are unable to take care of themselves, and I do it with compassion and dedication. However, despite my hard work and commitment, making ends meet can be a struggle.

This is why I wholeheartedly support House Bill 2457, which requires the Oregon Department of Human Services to increase payments to agencies so they can pay Direct Support Professionals a wage that is 150% of minimum wage. This bill would make a huge difference in the lives of Direct Support Professionals like myself. It would allow us to live with dignity, pay our bills, and provide for our families.

As a Direct Support Professional, I know the challenges of working in this field. I believe that this bill is an important step towards creating a fairer and more equitable society for all.

I urge you to support House Bill 2457 and make a positive impact on the lives of Direct Support Professionals in Oregon. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kristi Nelson