

Submitter: Bradley Leland

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

I am Bradley Leland, Director of behavioral health for Shangri-La. I oversee our residential mental health programs as well as our outpatient mental health clinic, which serves, among a larger client pool, individuals residing in I/DD residential programs here in Oregon. Shangri-La itself supports 1,000 Oregonians with disabilities and disadvantages every year. I am writing to offer my support for HB 2457.

First, I want to thank you for funding the current rate model last session, as this was critical to help providers like Shangri-La keep pace with COVID staffing shortages and inflation.

I am in support of HB 2457 because those concerns are still very much present today and the economic landscape ahead of us does not show signs of improvement, and we continue to see staffing fallout, and ongoing struggles to hire and retain DSP's faced with a complicated, challenging job that is nominally still at fast food wages.

Ensuring that DSP wages are always at 150% of minimum wage will be a huge step in keeping wages apace of any and all of the above factors and ensure that we can keep doing this critical work for people with disabilities and disadvantages.