

Submitter: Shaun Notdurft
On Behalf Of: DSP at OSLP
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure: HB2457

I have been a Direct Support Professional for the Oregon Supported Living Program for 29 years. I have seen first hand the turnover and low morale that results from not earning a truly living wage. I have seen the effect on the lives of the people who we support, as they are constantly in a mode of 'learning to trust' as the revolving door of staff disrupts their lives. I have seen entire teams lose their ambition, forego their own skills and creativity just to focus on the constantly shifting cast, which again has an effect on supports. I have gone insane trying to keep focus on the philosophy of what we do, ever immersed in a sea of new staff who leave right at that magic moment of "getting it." I will not say that every aspect of this is caused by the wage (or lack thereof), but the other problems are fueled by this one more often than not. Raise our wage to professional standards, so people like me can realize the dream of accomplishing the magical, and so the people I support can thrive beyond the inherent limits of imagination in a tumultuous environment. Now. Pass HB 2457.