

Submitter: Tiffani Olsen

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human
Services

Measure: HB5026

Please prioritize DD wages and support full funding of IDD services in HB 5026. I am asking that you not only protect your previous investment, but that you continue to help move this workforce out of crisis by supporting HB 2457 - it moves DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage.

Co-Chair Campos and Valderrama and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2457 that ensures that DSPs get the wages they deserve, by moving DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage and covers the Paid Leave Oregon Payroll Expense

My name is Tiffani Olsen, and I am the director of Shangri-La's IDD residential department. However, I started as a DSP at Shangri-La in 1997. Many things have changed, but many things have stayed the same. The job of a DSP is still very hard work! I value our DSPs and will always advocate on their behalf because this can feel like a thankless job. We need the right people that stay for the right reasons – not just someone that moves on after 6 months because they are able to make a little more at an entry level position.

Many coffee shops and food service businesses are able to start pay higher than that because they have the ability to raise prices. Our rates are set by local and federal government and are only increased when increased funding is provided. The role of a DSP is much more complex than getting an order correct in a food service establishment. Those are important jobs too but do not compare to the responsibility of a DSP.

Please vote yes on HB 2457. DSPs, the people they support, and their families are counting on your support!

Thank you for the important work now and in the days ahead.

Tiffani Olsen