

Submitter: Michelle Kemry

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB5026

Dear Committee Members,

This email is being sent to you to urge you to put all of your support behind two bills that 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.

These bills are not only helpful for our IDD community, but our communities at large. The services that IDD services and DSPs provide are critical to the care necessary of our IDD population, their families, and our communities. If you aren't sure what a Direct Support Professional (DSP) is and does, I urge you to take some of your precious time to get out and meet a few of these wonderful people and hear their stories. Clearly, the workforce within our IDD system is struggling to find and retain employees due to the inability to compete with other service industries. As a program provider, we aren't able to raise our rates and pass those costs onto our customers, so we rely on our Oregon legislature to fully fund our programs, so that we can pay the wages DSPs earn and deserve. Not to mention, this is a career position for many in the industry, and yet DSPs often have to work more than one job to try and make ends meet or work excessive amounts of overtime each pay period which isn't healthy for them or the people they care for.

I appreciate your time and attention to this important matter. If you know what a DSP is and what they do, but you have a colleague that doesn't, please reach out and help them learn, so they can appreciate why we are asking for support and be confident in putting their full support behind both HB 5026 and HB 2457.

Thanks,
Michelle D, Kemry
Owner
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