

Submitter: Steven Howell

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB5026

Hello,

I am asking you to 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. Please, vote in favor of HB 2457 and POP 132.

HB 2457 Statutorily sets Direct Support Provider (DSP) wages at 150% of metro minimum wage and includes the full 1% Paid Leave Oregon tax.

POP 132 Assures that Oregon's vulnerable citizens who experience disabilities will have providers who are valued for the work they perform. A targeted Rate Increase ensures worker rate increases, increases the health insurance assumption, and pays .04% of the Paid Oregon tax.

Pathway Enterprises, Inc. employs 75 DSP's who support over 100 adults who have developmental disabilities. These staff ensure people have the support they need and want, including but not limited to, medication administration and medical protocols, meals, hygiene, doctor's appointments, as well as social and recreational activities.

Your vote changes lives. The DSP will make a living wage that reflects the value of the work they perform every day. They will be motivated to build relationships with the people they support which will increase the quality of life for those receiving services.

Thank you again, for your support of some of Oregon's most vulnerable citizens, and the staff who support them.

Thank you,

Steven Howell
Director of Finance
Pathway Enterprises, Inc.