

Submitter: Gina Braden

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB5026

My name is Gina Braden. I am the Vice President of Operations at Alliance Services, an organization that supports about 213 people with disabilities and 282 staff. 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 ensures that DSPs get the wages they deserve, by moving DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage and covering the Paid Leave Oregon Payroll Expense.

DSP wages rose significantly after you agreed to fund the current rate model last session. Thank you for this investment. We would not have survived without it and we need to protect and enhance this investment going forward. The pandemic and changing workforce has continued to erode our progress on wages. Even though providers consistently pay wages above the amount that is funded, we still struggle to hire and retain employees. This complicated, critical work is often paid less than fast food employees.

Current reimbursements for these services were built on cost studies that are now years old, so even though service rate models are fully funded, the costs built into these models are significantly behind the current market. I have linked a flier below that highlights these key points and shows how DSP wages consistently trend above the reimbursement rate.

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

This link provides more information about the bill:

<https://oregonresource.box.com/s/of9s49qupwlqozg44qize9w65mxxpde4n>

Thank you very much!

Respectfully,

Gina B.

VP of Operations

gina@alliance-services.org

(971) 801-4728 (phone & fax)

Facebook | Instagram | Website

Together we provide personal and empathetic support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, removing barriers so they can discover their best selves.

Privacy/Confidentiality Notice: The information contained in this electronic document (and any attached files) is privileged and confidential pursuant to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521. This message, including any attachments, is intended solely for the use of the named recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution of this communication(s) is expressly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email or at the above telephone number and destroy any and all copies of the original message both physical and electronic.