

**Sen. Winsvey Campos, Co-Chair**  
**Rep Andrea Valderrama, Chair**  
**Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services**

**Support for HB 5026 – DHS Budget and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities**

March 2, 2023

Co-Chair Campos and Valderrama,

The past three years have been one crisis after another for most of the country; from COVID, to full or partial shutdowns, to supply shortages, a labor shortage and now inflation.

We are a company that supports one of the most vulnerable segment of our population, people with I/DD. We operate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Our DSP's have continued to care for the people we support through all of these challenging times.

We need to provide these dedicated people with wage increases due to inflation and to be competitive in the current workforce so that we can continue to support these very special people. They need to be compensated for the valuable services they give.

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. I am asking you to please support the following:

● **ODDS's POP 132 – Targeted Rate Increase estimated to cost \$162M**

Includes wage inflation and rate increases that bring DSP wages in payment category 1 to \$19.36, payment category 2 to \$20.38, and to \$22.42 in payment category 4 in the first year of the biennium. Increases the health insurance assumption to \$628.45 (currently \$525) per employee per month and adds the 0.4% employer Paid Leave Oregon payroll tax pick-up.

● **HB 2457 – 150% of Minimum Wage + 1% Paid Leave Oregon Pick-up estimated to cost \$116.9M**

This bill will make further investments into DSP wages – because DSP work is not minimum wage work! HB 2457 statutorily sets DSP wages across the state at 150% of the metro minimum wage and includes the full 1% Paid Leave Oregon pick up (.4% Employer + .6% Employee pick-up).

Respectfully submitted.

Sherry Paulson