

To: Co-chairs and members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
From: Kelly McCauley, community member
Date: 3/2/2023
Subject: Support for HB 5026/HB 2457. Fully fund services

Good morning Representative and members of the committee. My name is Kelly McCauley, and I am a person with a slow learning disability. I live alone in my own apartment, but I have a team of DSPs working with me. Almost every day of the week/ weekend. It is important for me to have DSPs working with me weekly. Because I too have my own struggles in life. And I need a lot of help sorting everything out.

Having a DSP have higher wages would be a good thing to support. Because having a higher wage would make it so that DSP might be more interested in the job to stay. Right now, we are in a DSP crisis. There is a shortage of DSPs around Oregon. If a DSP doesn't make a lot of money at their job. That person leaves. And when you build a relationship with that DSP. And then you lose that support. It's harmful to the person supported to lose that staff. Because that person supported has built up that relationship with the DSP.

Right now, I am living my best life while being supported by my DSPs. I know that if there is something like an event to go to I know that I am needing support for that. All I have to do is schedule ahead with the staff.

I am living my best life. DSPs are able to... Take me to concerts. I directed a play at our local theater over the weekend. Where my staff helped to support me. The play that I directed was highly successful, a sold-out show both nights. I am pretty much following my own path so I can lead my best life. But there are still times when I need support. And that is very helpful for me.

I would love to see HB2457 and HB5026, supported. The higher the wages. The more that DSP will want to stay with the job. Including PTO (paid time off). Thank you, co-chairs and members of the Committee. Thank you for your time. And please support HB2457 and HB5026.