



March 3, 2023

Chair Campos and Chair Valderrama and Members of the Committee,

I write to offer my support for a fully funded I/DD budget. In 2021, the Legislature made historic investments in services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and for the first time the I/DD system was FULLY FUNDED. Even though this investment allowed us to increase wages for DSPs by \$1.25 an hour (current average reimbursement wage for DSPs at \$17.81), we still struggle with staff shortages. We must continue to move the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce out of crisis.

Additional increases in wages are needed to address the current workforce shortage. Our individuals need and deserve consistency in their lives. They need to be able to trust the staff that are caring for them. They cannot build that trust because the staff come and go so quickly.

Please protect your investment and continue fully funding I/DD rates while prioritizing DSPs!

I specifically urge you to support:

- **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).

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.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brenda Linden'.

Brenda Linden, State Director

Dungarvin, OR LLC is a provider of 24-Hour Residential, Supported Living, and Supported Employment services across Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, and Lane Counties.

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