



Written Testimony in Support of HB 2150 with the -1 Amendment

Submitted by: Sydney Kempker

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Committee: House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

Dear Chair Hartman and Members of the Committee,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to respectfully ask for your support of HB 2150 with the -1 Amendment. This crucial piece of legislation, if passed, would direct the Department of Human Services (DHS) to include an annual cost of living adjustment in contracts with community provider organizations that deliver services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

As you are aware, the importance of these services cannot be overstated. The dedicated professionals who provide care and support to individuals with IDD play an essential role in helping our community thrive. However, DHS recently completed a study, requested by the legislature, which highlighted a concerning reality: chronic underfunding of these services has resulted in a staggering \$558 million gap between what providers are currently reimbursed and the actual costs of providing these necessary services. Without action, this gap will continue to widen, undermining the ability of community organizations to sustain the high-quality care that so many rely on.

HB 2150 with the -1 Amendment will address this issue directly by ensuring that contracts between DHS and community providers include annual adjustments no less than the Consumer Price Index. This adjustment would help bridge the financial gap and prevent further erosion of services and wages.

Furthermore, this bill is vital in ensuring that Direct Support Professionals, the backbone of this workforce, have wages that keep up with the rising cost of living. These professionals provide life-changing care and support, and it is only fair that their compensation reflects the rising costs they face in their daily lives. By including these adjustments, we can help ensure that these workers are fairly compensated and that the IDD services they provide remain sustainable for the long term.

I urge you to consider the profound impact that passing HB 2150 with the -1 Amendment will have on our most vulnerable populations and the dedicated workforce that serves them. By doing so, you will be taking an important step toward supporting the future of intellectual and developmental disability services and ensuring that these vital programs can continue to meet the needs of those who depend on them.

Please lend your support to HB 2150 with the -1 Amendment and prioritize funding for IDD services in the 2025-2027 Budget.

Thank you for your time and for your continued dedication to this important issue. I am grateful for your leadership and your commitment to improving the lives of Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Warm regards,

Sydney Kempker

Program Manager