

I have worked providing services for 24 years. When we are unable to provide COLA's It has a devastating effect on our staffing. People quit or need to take second jobs. When staff quit or can't recover from this taxing work, the quality of the care we provide nosedives. This affects the people we serve and we see a spike in the need for additional services, ER hospital visits and behavioral interventions as the two most obvious and costly. Doesn't it make sense to limit those costs by insuring regular, budgeted cost of living allowances?

A recent study indicated that my staff should be paid \$25 an hour for the work they do. The median wage for a DSP in Oregon is \$15.07. Is it too much to ask that my staff don't fall further behind?

<https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/data/oddsdata/2023-dsp-workforce-report-en.pdf>

I am writing to ask that you support HB 2150 with the -2 Amendment. This amended bill would direct the Department of Human Services (DHS) to include an annual cost of living adjustment into contracts with community provider organizations for the provision of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

DHS recently completed a study at the legislature's request that demonstrated chronic underfunding of these services has created a \$558 million gap between what providers are currently being paid and actual costs. This bill would keep that gap from growing larger by ensuring that annual increases of no less than the Consumer Price Index are included in DHS contracts for these services.

This bill helps Direct Support Professionals' wages keep up with inflation at a minimum, preventing this vital workforce from falling further behind.

Please support HB 2150 with the -2 Amendment and prioritize funding for IDD services in the 2025-2027 Budget

Sincerely,

Mark Davis