

Submitter: Tiffany Lawson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2150

Dear Honorable Chair Person and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2150. As a former Personal Support Worker for four years, I have firsthand experience in understanding the vital role that support systems play for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The critical services provided by support workers help ensure these individuals live with dignity and independence.

During my time working as a Personal Support Worker, I witnessed how essential these services are. The individual I supported depended on their caregivers for more than just physical assistance—they required compassionate, skilled, and reliable support to navigate their daily lives. However, the reality is that many support workers are underpaid and overburdened, making it difficult to retain skilled professionals in this field. This issue is especially troubling because when workers are not compensated with a livable wage, the quality of care can suffer, and the individuals who rely on these services are the ones who ultimately bear the consequences.

The services provided to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are in place for a reason. Without sufficient compensation for those who provide this care, we risk undermining the very system that supports some of the most vulnerable members of our society. We must ensure that those who take on the important and not-so-easy job of being a support worker are paid fairly. By establishing a livable wage for support workers, we can better retain skilled individuals in these positions, which will improve the quality of life for both the individuals receiving support and the workers themselves.

HB 2150 is an important step toward addressing these disparities. By passing this bill, we are not only ensuring that support workers are compensated fairly, but we are also making a long-term investment in the well-being of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon. This bill helps both parties—support workers and the individuals they care for—by strengthening the foundation of care and support systems in our state.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I urge you to support HB 2150 and help create a more sustainable and compassionate system for all Oregonians in need of support.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Lawson