Submitter:	Winifred Skinner
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB2150

I am a board member for Shangri-la. Shangri-la is a nonprofit organization, annually supporting 1000 people with disabilities and families with disadvantages. I support HB 2150 with the −1 amendment. In the past five years, I/DD service providers have seen less than 3% increases in pay rates, all during a time when inflation has skyrocketed. Shangri-la is a nonprofit organization, so it understands doing more with less. But they are far past that point and need you to invest in their services, in the people who do the work, and most importantly, in Oregonians who experience an intellectual or developmental disability.

* A recent ODHS study showed a $558 million dollar gap between what providers are currently paid and what they need to sustain services.

* There are no cost-of-living adjustments built into the rate models. Which means, if a rate model is fully funded, the rates are only viable for the first year. After that, they continually fall behind until literally operating on a shoe-string budget, making choices on what to fund internally that they shouldn't have to make.

• Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) deserve to earn a living wage, so providers such as Shangri-La pay starting pay of over the funded average wage.

You can help people with I/DD and the Direct Support Professionals who serve them!

• Fund a 1-time immediate increase so providers can pass this on to DSPs, take care of the homes people with I/DD live in, and add back positions which have been eliminated due to underfunding.

• The absolute best thing you can do for providers of I/DD services is add an annual cost of living adjustment to the rate model of no less than the Consumer Price Index. They should not have to come back to the legislature every year to beg for scraps to do the work they do supporting Oregonians with I/DD.

Please support HB 2150, with the −1 amendment. Thank you.