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March 27, 2025

Chair Hartman & Vice Chairs Scharf & Nguyen
House Early Childhood and Human Services Committee
Oregon Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB2150 - Funding for the DSP Rate & Wage Study Findings

Chair Hartman, Vice Chairs Scharf and Nguyen & Members of the Committee,

My name is Greg Ewert, and I am the CEO of Alliance Services, based in Newberg, Oregon. We employ Direct Support Professionals who serve individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in their homes across more than eight counties in Oregon. We've proudly been in business since 2015. Our dedicated team members each play a critical role in providing care at home to the many Oregonians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and people with complex care needs that rely on Medicaid program supports to allow them to continue to live their life with dignity at home, surrounded by loved ones, in their preferred care setting.

I am writing in support of HB2150 and the -2 Amendment, which would require the Oregon Department of Human Services to adjust payments to provider agencies annually for inflation—using the Consumer Price Index as the basis and begin the process of funding the results of the Burnes & Associates Rate Wage Study.

In 2023, the Legislature directed the Department of Human Services to conduct a Rate and Wage Study to assess the financial health of the system. The results were sobering: the study revealed a \$558 million annual funding gap in services for individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, due to years of underfunding and rising inflationary costs. That figure isn't theoretical—it's impacting real people, real workers, and real care today.

This bill is not asking for that gap to be closed all at once—but it is a smart, targeted step to ensure the gap doesn't grow larger. Without annual adjustments, rising inflation continues to erode the value of state payments, forcing provider agencies to make increasingly painful choices.

This policy change is not just good practice—it's urgently needed.

Direct Support Professionals, our workforce, provide complex, life-sustaining care. Yet many earn wages that make it hard to stay in the field and make a long-term career of this work, despite their desire to do so. If we want to stabilize this workforce, we must ensure that state funding keeps up with inflation—just like families and businesses have to adjust their budgets year after year.

This bill gives providers a basic tool to maintain stability. It's fiscally responsible, data-informed, and it sends a strong message: that the Legislature values not only the people receiving services, but the people delivering them.

On behalf of our staff, our clients, and the families we support, I respectfully urge your "yes" vote on this bill.

Sincerely,



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