

Submitter: Carole Searle  
On Behalf Of: Alternative Services Oregon Inc  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2150

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2150 with the -2 Amendment  
Submitted by: Carole Searle

Clinical Director, Alternative Services – OR, INC.

Date: March 28, 2025

Committee: House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

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,  
Carole Searle