

Submitter: Mykal Bruno

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2150

My name is Mykal Bruno, and I am a Direct Support Professional (DSP) at the Oregon Supported Living Program. OSLP is a non-profit organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Lane County.

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

Recently, DHS completed a study, as requested by the legislature, which revealed chronic underfunding of these services. The study indicated a \$558 million gap between what providers are currently paid and the actual costs needed to deliver these services. This bill aims to prevent that gap from widening by ensuring that annual increases of at least the Consumer Price Index are included in DHS contracts for these services.

After a decade of working in this field, I am personally feeling the strain of insufficient wages. I am increasingly concerned that I may not be able to continue my work as a DSP, as I find it challenging to support myself and my family due to inflation and the lack of wage increases.

This bill would help ensure that the wages of Direct Support Professionals like myself at least keep pace with inflation, preventing this vital workforce from falling further behind.

Please support HB 2150 with the -2 Amendment and prioritize funding for intellectual and developmental disability services in the 2025-2027 Budget. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.