

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

Hello, my name is Angelina, and I have been working as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) for the past three years. Currently, I serve as the Assistant Manager/DSP at OSLP, a non-profit organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Lane County.

Getting into this work has been life-changing for me. Helping individuals overcome their challenges and promoting their independence is something I aspire to do for the rest of my life. As a new mother, I want to support my family in the best way possible. Recently, the challenges of inflation, stagnant wages, and rising rent have been mentally exhausting. While I love my job, with my rent consuming over half of my paycheck, remaining in this position is becoming increasingly difficult. When I look at other jobs that offer \$24 an hour for dishwashing, I feel unappreciated and overlooked. If prices continue to rise, we will continue to fall behind.

According to the Living Wage Calculator from MIT, the livable wage in Eugene, OR, for a family of two with one child is \$38.30 per hour. I am currently earning only \$20 per hour, which is hard and frightening.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) recently conducted a study at the request of the legislature, which revealed that chronic underfunding of these services has created a \$558 million gap between what providers are currently being paid and the actual costs. This bill would prevent that gap from widening by ensuring that annual increases, at least equal to the Consumer Price Index, are included in DHS contracts for these services.

This bill can and will help families and individuals like me stay afloat during these challenging times. I urge you to support HB 2150 with the -2 Amendment and prioritize funding for intellectual and developmental disability services in the 2025-2027 Budget.

Thank you for all that you do!