



**Good afternoon, Chair Hartman, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and members of the committee,**

My name is Bradley Leland, and I am the Behavioral Health Director of Shangri-La, a nonprofit that provides critical services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in Oregon. We support approximately 1,000 Oregonians annually, offering assistance to those with disabilities and families facing disadvantage. I am writing today to express my strong support for House Bill 2150 with the –1 amendment.

Over the past five years, the rates for I/DD service providers have seen increases of less than 3%, despite a significant rise in inflation. As a nonprofit, we understand the importance of being resourceful and doing more with less. However, we have reached a point where this is no longer sustainable. We need your help to invest in our services, support the dedicated staff who provide care, and most importantly, ensure that Oregonians with intellectual or developmental disabilities are not left behind.

### **Why are we here today?**

- **Chronic underfunding of I/DD services:** A recent study from the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) revealed a \$558 million gap between what providers are currently being paid and what is necessary to maintain services. This gap continues to grow, affecting the quality of care we can provide.
- **No cost-of-living adjustments in rate models:** Our current rate models lack cost-of-living adjustments, meaning that even if a rate model is fully funded initially, it becomes unsustainable after the first year. This puts us in the difficult position of cutting essential services and staff to balance our budgets.
- **Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) deserve fair compensation:** At Shangri-La we understand the importance of compensating our Direct Support Professionals fairly. While the state rates may not reflect the true costs of care, we go above and beyond to provide DSPs with wages above the state-funded average. However, even with these efforts, the financial strain on our organization and staff is overwhelming.

### **How you can help:**

- **Provide a one-time immediate rate increase:** A one-time increase would allow providers like Shangri-La to pass the funds directly to DSPs, help maintain safe living environments for individuals with I/DD, and restore positions that were eliminated due to chronic underfunding.
- **Implement annual cost-of-living adjustments:** The most effective way to support I/DD service providers is to incorporate an annual cost-of-living adjustment into our rate models. This would protect our ability to provide quality services without having to return to the legislature every year to request additional funding.

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I urge you to support HB 2150 with the –1 amendment. The time to act is now. Your support will make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals with I/DD and the Direct Support Professionals who serve them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Bradley Leland  
Director of Behavioral Health  
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