

Submitter: Corey Jeppesen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2150

I watched Wednesday's hearing on HB 2150 with great interest. I have worked in IDD services for nearly 30 years and am pleased that the idea of annual cost of living raises for IDD providers is finally getting the attention it deserves. Far too often providers have been granted small increases or COLAs during the first half of a biennial budget and nothing the second. Predictably, this has impacted their ability to recruit and retain quality staff, which in turn impacts the quality of services that can be offered to Oregonians with disabilities. Oregon is fortunate that outcomes for factors such as health and safety haven't been worse than they have been; it is a testimony to the dedication of DSPs to their craft and to the people they support.

I wanted to address some of the testimony I heard about large, for profit providers making large profits. I don't see this as a problem with the current rate structure. Rather, what was described resulted from loopholes in the ODHS administrative rules and alleged but well-publicized fraud by one large provider. I believe that ODHS (and the justice system) already have the tools they need to remedy this problem, which is completely independent of the of the problems addressed by HB 2150.

I urge you to support HB 2150. Your yes vote will help keep IDD providers from falling further behind and is an important step in giving them the reliable, predictable funding they deserve.