

Submitter: Daniel Harned-Winkelman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2150

I am a Direct Support Professional for the Oregon Supported Living program. For the past 40 years, we have been providing a much needed service to disabled individuals. We currently have over 200 staff providing person centered support that emphasizes independence, personal choice, and growth. The people we support are often overlooked and ignored, and programs like ours allow for them to receive the care and support they need without being remanded to an institutional setting. However, we still struggle to have enough staff to do our job properly without high rates of burnout. At this moment, forty percent of the staff in my program are forced to work overtime upwards of 50 hours a week, in order to fill holes in coverage. By supporting this bill, you ensure we will be able to incentivize hard working, motivated individuals to work with us, ensuring that the most vulnerable among us are able to live with dignity, respect, and care.