



**Shangri-La**  
Enriching Lives Together

April 3, 2025

Good afternoon, Co-Chairs Campos and Valderrama, and members of the committee,

My name is Janet Yousey, and I have the privilege of serving as CEO at Shangri-La. We are a nonprofit organization, annually supporting 1000 people with disabilities and families with disadvantages. *I support SB 5526.*

In the past five years, I/DD service providers have seen less than 3% increases in our rates, all during a time when inflation has skyrocketed. We are a nonprofit organization, so to our core, we understand doing more with less. But we are far past that point and need you to invest in our services, in the people who do the work, and most importantly, in Oregonians who experience an intellectual or developmental disability.

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

- Chronic underfunding of I/DD services. A recent ODHS study showed a \$558 million dollar gap between what providers are currently paid and what they need to sustain services.
- There are no cost-of-living adjustments built into our rate models. Which means, if a rate model is fully funded, the rates are only viable for the first year. After that we continually fall behind until we're literally on a shoestring budget, making choices on what to fund internally that we shouldn't have to make.
- Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) deserve to earn a living wage, so providers such as Shangri-La, pay *starting pay* of over the funded *average wage*.

### **You can help people with I/DD and the Direct Support Professionals who serve them!**

- Fund a 1-time immediate increase so providers can pass this on to DSPs, take care of the homes people with I/DD live in, and add back positions which have been eliminated due to underfunding.
- The absolute best thing you can do for providers of I/DD services is add an annual cost of living adjustment to our rate model of no less than the Consumer Price Index. We should not have to come back to the legislature every year to beg for scraps to do the work we do supporting Oregonians with I/DD.

*Please support SB 5526.*

Thank you,  
Janet Yousey, CEO  
Shangri-La

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