

**Good afternoon, Co-chairs Campos and Valderrama, and rest of the committee,**

My name is Jody Lee, I am from Roseburg and I have worked as a Direct Support Professional for over 20 years. I am here to ask for \$558 million to properly fund IDD services.

As a parent of a person with IDD, I literally live the reality of insufficient funding. I help support people at UHI and help support my son at home. I do not get paid for caring for my adult son with downs syndrome. This means I work full time and provide support outside of my employment full time.

The idea of a DSP providing care for my son scares me. My wife and I don't know who we can trust, nor how good of care our son would receive. Hiring a DSP for just over \$18 an hour is terrifying when someone can work at a fast food restaurant, with no credentials, and start at \$20 an hour. DSP duties for my son would include bathing, administering medications and treatments, feeding, overall hygiene, dressing, toileting, transporting to and from medical appointments, and the list goes on. These are all critical pieces of my son's life.

These services are worth an annual cost of living adjustment. If the funding continues the way it has been, my wife and I fear that my son may never have the opportunity to receive good care without her or me providing it.

My wife and I have no reassurance that funding will be in place in the coming years for our sons care. Knowing that the quality of care future DSP's can provide will help give us that reassurance.

What do you think the opportunities in the coming years look like for people with IDD? We need to address this crisis now.

**Please increase IDD funding in the 2025-27 DHS budget and help fill the \$558 million gap. This will support families like mine and help individuals receive the care they deserve.**

Thank you for your time