

Submitter: Carrie Brickey
On Behalf Of: HB 2150
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

My name is Carrie Brickey and I am the Executive Director for Alternative Services-OR, Inc. We support 93 vulnerable Oregonians diagnosed with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in 24 hour residential group homes. We operate 25 homes across 6 counties in Oregon. In the last 4 years we have had to significantly decrease our services, closing 9 homes, due to underfunding. We currently employ 212 Direct Support Professionals but have 40+ open FTE DSP positions.

I am writing to ask that you support HB 2150 with the -2 Amendment. This amended bill would direct the Department of Human Services (DHS) to include an annual cost of living adjustment into contracts with community provider organizations for the provision of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

DHS recently completed a study at the legislature's request that demonstrated chronic underfunding of these services has created a \$558 million gap between what providers are currently being paid and actual costs. This bill would keep that gap from growing larger by ensuring that annual increases of no less than the Consumer Price Index are included in DHS contracts for these services.

This bill will help Direct Support Professionals wages keep up with inflation at a minimum, preventing this vital workforce from falling further behind.

Please support HB 2150 with the -2 Amendment and prioritize funding for IDD services in the 2025-2027 Budget.

Sincerely,
Carrie Brickey
Executive Director