

Submitter: Brent Kell
On Behalf Of: HB2150-2 SB133
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Valley Immediate Care
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April 23, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As Chief Executive Officer of Valley Immediate Care, I am writing in strong support of the recommendations outlined in the January 2025 Rate & Wage Study on Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). We urge the Oregon Legislature to fully fund the proposed initiatives to stabilize and strengthen Oregon's DSP workforce.

Valley Immediate Care has proudly employed individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for nearly two decades. Through this experience, we have seen firsthand the essential role that DSPs play in supporting the independence, health, and dignity of the people they serve. These professionals are the backbone of Oregon's I/DD care system, and yet they continue to face chronically low wages and insufficient career supports.

High turnover and staffing shortages in this workforce put both individuals and care providers at risk. A minimum wage of \$25 per hour, longevity pay, and tying DSP compensation to inflation are not just policy ideals—they are necessary investments in the long-term sustainability of this system. Fully funding the recommendations in the DSP wage report is a vital step toward ensuring that individuals with I/DD receive the consistent, quality care they deserve.

On behalf of Valley Immediate Care, I respectfully urge the Legislature to act on these recommendations and help secure a stable, skilled, and supported DSP workforce for years to come.

Sincerely,

Brent Kell
Chief Executive Officer
Valley Immediate Care