



Services for Oregon's Most Vulnerable Citizens are in Crisis!

Turnover of direct care workers exceeds 65% costing at least \$12 million annually in replacement costs.

Other Critical Issues

- ✓ No increases in 5 years.
- ✓ Savings exhausted, some organizations face bankruptcy.

Compare!

The state is responsible for assuring the health, safety and rights of people needing Comprehensive Services.

Non-profits now provide this service in communities throughout Oregon. It would cost the State over \$200,000,000 in direct labor costs alone to provide the same supports.

Nearly 3,000 people with Developmental Disabilities (DD) living in Oregon communities must have twenty-four hour support.

My Name is Jake. I am a caregiver for Partnerships in Community Living (PCL). I have worked for PCL for 7 years, and I have a wife and 2 children. I have one of the most important jobs in life—helping people grow, have a quality life and be a contributing member of society. It's the best job in the world, but it comes with great personal sacrifice, as I barely make enough money to provide my family with their basic needs.

I want the same things out of life that all of you do, but I have to pay nearly half my paycheck for medical benefits, daycare is outrageously expensive, mortgage payments are high for everyone, and this doesn't even address the interesting financial curves life throws at you. It is very difficult to live life and support a family with what this line of work pays. My wife also works a full-time job, as well as a part-time job with different schedules all the time—we don't get to spend much time together because we are so busy trying to make enough money to live, survive, and provide a secure future for our family. I could go work somewhere else for more money and better benefits, but like I said, this is one of the most important jobs in the world—we make a difference in the lives of people every day, and I want to do it forever.

However, as life throws those curves, I may be faced to look for a job that pays better. I just hope people realize how important and demanding this job really is and will help support our desire to create safe and secure futures for our families.



Recommendation: *An increase of approximately \$60 million in State General Funds to increase rates for current DD Comprehensive Services is needed for the 2007-09 biennium.*

Further, cost of living increases must be included in every biennial budget. Without such adjustments, community nonprofits will continue to be in crisis.