

To: Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee  
From: Kady Stapes  
Job Position - EA II ERC H  
Re: Support for HB 3318-1

Wage:

I make 13.44 an hour. The average cost of living for renting is around \$550 and that is not including utilities or all the deposits. The cost of living for Bend is 33% higher than the US and renting is 6% higher than the US average. I have been reading in the Bulletin that Bend needs to make more affordable housing for everyone. I make monthly around 1,100. It is not a reasonable way to live. I have to apply for food stamps because I cannot afford to live on my own. Living paycheck to paycheck is unacceptable. I do not get paid enough for what I do on a daily basis. If I were to choose a livable wage for this job title it would be at least \$18 an hour.

Behavior:

I have my Master of Art in Teaching. I teach lessons to students every day so that they can make their IEP goals or academic goals by the end of the year. I am assessing students progress. I am teaching life skills to some students. I relieve for breaks/lunch/absences and take care of a student who has seizures with a medicine protocol, who is nonverbal, has a diaper, is not potty trained, and cannot live without assistance. This student is a life skills student, possibly for life. I am a one-on-one with a student who can be very aggressive. I have written this student up for hitting, spitting, pulling my hair, kicking, screaming profanities, punching, pinching, scratching, running around the school, throwing objects at me or across the room, being defiant, disruptive behavior and has had many room clears in home room class.

Every student has the right to be at school, but EA's do not have the training or professional degree to be dealing with this kind of behavior on a daily basis and we need your help to pass HB 3318-1. A lot of this behavior stems from environmental or disabilities/disorders the student might have. How do we handle situations that are out of our control in order to de-escalate the student. The solution was to give CPI training and yet we cannot use it. We need more training and get paid a lot more to handle a professional's job with behavior like this. Teachers call EA's to handle the physical/emotional behaviors, take students out of class, or deal with it quietly while they continue their lesson.

I deal with emotional and physical behavior on a daily basis, I have 4 and sometimes 6 small groups throughout the day for 30 minutes each.. Some of the students have behavioral issues that cause disruption from the rest of the groups learning. Behaviors such as deviant/refusal, disrespect, yelling, and throwing items. I am also on call for behavior support throughout the day as well. I support in classrooms, outside (refusing to come in for recess or running away), I support in our sensory room and HUT (a room that is isolated from other students where students can do there work or calm down).