

To: Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee,
From: Norma Arellano
Job Position - EA CAN
Re: Support for HB 3318-1

Wage:

I make 16.44 an hour. The average cost of living for renting is around \$850 and that is not including utilities, daycare, 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 1,300. It is not a reasonable way to live. 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 15 years' experience and have been a CNA for 13 years, I work one on one with a student with medical needs as well as behavior. She has low muscle tone and needs to use a wheelchair part of the day. She can get aggressive and tends to bite, scratch, pull hair. She is on swallow precautions and now has seizures and has to be given meds at school per this CNA. this is a student 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.

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. 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 to get paid a lot more to handle behaviors like this. Teachers have their hands full, and 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 and it would just be nice to feel we're worth getting paid for the level of work we do daily and the training we need.