

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee.

My name is Heather Reynolds and I have worked as a Direct Support Professional at Benco for 23 years. I am here to urge you to prioritize full funding for Developmental Disability Services, and more specifically in DSP Wages.

Here's is the list of client responses I have heard over the years when staff leave:

Are they mad at me?

Am I doing good?

Am I in trouble?

I liked them.

I'll miss them.

Will they come and visit me?

Will they come to my birthday party?

Who will take me to the library? Out for a snack? The movies? Who will help me?

When will I see them?

Will they come back?

I love them.

Why?

Why?

Why?

How come?

For what reason?

Please fund disability services to ensure these vulnerable people have the supports they need, when they need them.

Thank you,