

To The Chair and Members of the House Committee on Human Services,

As a member of the in-home provider agency DSP workforce, I would like to express my support for HB 2964, which will ensure DSP wages remain competitive with the rising minimum wage. In addition, I request that an amendment to the bill be made to ensure the inclusion of the in-home provider agency DSP workforce alongside the residential DSP workforce.

My work as an in-home provider agency DSP covers a broad range of support services. I assist individuals with finding and retaining housing, health and medication management, safety issues, nutrition and meal preparation, personal hygiene, budgeting, maintaining the home, positive behavioral support, socialization and communication, supports while on the job, and advocacy on their behalf as needed. My work has also been greatly needed during this pandemic. This work requires a broad base of knowledge, specialized training, resourcefulness, and an investment in the well being of those I serve.

I support the passage of this bill to allow DSPs in both residential and the in-home provider agency settings to be compensated for our highly skilled work with the participants we support. Please consider adding an amendment to this bill that includes the in-home provider agency DSP workforce.

"In-home provider agency" means an entity certified and endorsed by the Department of Human Services to provide community based developmental disability services. Thank you so much for your attention to this.