

Submitter: Nicholas Griffin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

My name is Nicholas Griffin and I am a Direct Support Professional at Partnerships in Community Living Inc. I have worked at PCL for about 10 years now.

I am writing in support of Bill 2457 which ensures that DSPs wages are at 150% the minimum wage.

Thank you for having already funded DSP wages last session. As someone receiving these wages I can attest that the help was a massive one. And I know that the company I work at would have really struggled to find staffing if this had not happened.

The field still suffers from a staffing crisis in the new economic landscape. It is hard to recruit enough people, especially when wages have increased in other fields. Higher wages are necessary to attract and retain good employees. The alternative to the people supported who rely on these services is for them to struggle to find staff, or be staffed by underpaid employees who may feel unmotivated. Across the years I have seen the damage that the thought that support professionals and people receiving those supports are not "worth it" has done. The blow to morale in staff and quality of life in those supported can be significant. The company I work for struggles to maintain staffing and many staff only stay at PCL for a little bit until they find a high paying job.

Please vote yes to support bill 2457, to support the dignity of the developmentally disabled and the people who help them to thrive. We are counting on you.