

Submitter: Paul Litwinczuk

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

Dear House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

As a 7 year Board member for Albertina Kerr (serving and empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and individuals with behavioral health challenges), I have seen the impact of our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) taking care of our customers, their families and our communities. Unfortunately, I have also seen the challenges we have in attracting and retaining DSPs to serve those in need and meet the demand for our services.

The DSPs that do commit to caring for our most vulnerable, do so at the risk of not being able to take care of their own family needs due to a pay structure that does not value what they give to our communities and can make it challenging to live their lives to the fullest.

HB 2457 is a significant action that will support human service organizations to have the DSP staff they need to provide care to those in need; and ensure our DSPs are provided a living wage that allows them to do what most of them love to do.

Thank you for supporting HB 2457 and making a huge difference for our communities.

Paul Litwinczuk