

Submitter: Tammie Montgomery

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

Chair Sanchez and Members of the Committee,

Hi my name is Tammie Montgomery and I work at Shangri la in one of the residential treatment homes they have as a manager. I supervise the direct support professionals (DSP's) that care for the individuals we serve. I have been in this line of work for 45 years and have always known that it takes a good DSP to help the individuals we serve to maintain a homelife that is consistent with the rest of society and allow them to thrive. As a manager I am writing in support of HB 2457.

I would like to thank you for the investments you made last session by fully funding the rate models, allowing providers like Shangri la to significantly increase DSP wages we would not have survived without this increase. I strongly encourage you to invest in our DSP workforce again this session by voting for and advocating for HB 2457. The fully funded rate models were an amazing step, but with rising inflation eroding our progress on wages, amidst a global staffing shortage, and COVID-19 continuing to be a real threat to the people we serve and to our staff, we need to do more to protect and support our direct workforce. By tying our rate models to 150% of minimum wage, we have a chance to stabilize our workforce now and for the future.

DSPs are critical people, doing critical work -- please vote yes on HB 2457 and pave a path for sustainable wages for DSPs. The people they support, and their families are counting on this support.

Thank you,

Tammie Montgomery RTH Manager Shangri La