

Submitter: Angela Davis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

I have been working in Disability services for over 3 years now, and have personal experience with Disability services.

I have had the pleasure of watching the growth from individuals who receive consistent supports. I have been witness to the development of skills in such a way, that they now have the ability to live independently.

I have had the displeasure of watching many direct support professionals, who have developed a strong bond with their clients and assisted with the development of independent skills, leave due to the lack of income being provided. I have been able to witness the repercussions of staff who are not able to make a livable wage, and the client becomes distrusting or relapses into habits that were being worked on.

The ability to pay a liveable wage is more than just paying DSP's more, it is the ability to provide substantial support to individuals who receive direct supports to such an extent that they are able to live a fuller, happier, more independent lifestyle.

DSP's not only deserve a liveable wage, but individuals with disabilities receiving direct support deserve staff who can reliably and consistently provide support, without fear of financial instability.