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To: Early Childhood and Human Services Committee Hearing
HIGH IMPORTANCE! Please Support HB2457

As a mother of a teenage son that resides in a residential home and a DSP worker for almost 8 years in Jackson County. My heart breaks over the constant turn over that I see. It leads to a site being short of staff and often over worked long term staff which burns them out. Then the cycle starts over again. Most often this is caused by the lack of wages we receive. As a single mom of 3 I can definitely assure you of that. I struggled with having to choose which bill would get paid and would I be able to have enough gas to even get to work.

Plus when people we serve don't have consistent and supportive supports it causes a number of issues. Anxiety is a big one which could be so extreme that it could often lead to behaviors. Their mental state is effected because some don't understand what happened to the staff that had been with them and why don't see that person anymore. Not to mention more than often the only outside contact that some might have are with the ones that are supporting them. DSP'S are the people that help them with every matter of their lives. The ones that they are with them for birthdays and holidays.

I am doing my best to support individuals with IDD in my community to live productive lives. Please help me to continue this!

Please Support HB2457.
Thank You,
Debra Stone