I am Marilee Darby, HR Coordinator at ISL Living, an organization that supports people with disabilities. The individuals that we support rely on Direct Support Professionals to live and thrive in or community. I have worked in this field for over 10 years and have watched the DSPs struggle to make ends meet. Both the agencies I have worked for have struggled to pay them a living wage and to remain in business.

Current reimbursements for these services were built on cost studies that are now years old, so even though service rate models are fully funded, the costs built into these models are significantly behind the current market.