

Submitter: Sidney Soto

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

Hello, I've been a "Life Enrichment Specialist" to now "Direct Support Professional" in this field well over a decade, the challenges this field faces are being able to retain staff. It is an extremely difficult field to make a career in and is not for everyone. Being able to withstand the mental/physical abuse you face almost daily is really unfathomable and that's why this field has one of the highest if not the highest of turnover rates. On top of the inadequate pay, people are better off working retail or at a fast-food place for basically the same pay, with probably 85-90% Less stress and don't have to really worry about being physically abused. This job really takes its toll from Assistant Directors, Program Managers, Assistant Managers, to mainly the Direct Support Professionals. But more importantly adults/kids we serve with some of the group homes that don't have stability because of lack of staff. I really thought about this long and hard what could be done outside of pay increases and I came to the conclusion, absolutely nothing will bring in/retain staff other than increased wages.