

Submitter: Angelina Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

I have worked as a caregiver for three years now. I have provided care to our youth, young adults, and elderly. I have found much fulfillment within my position, and there are many elements to my job that I enjoy. Unfortunately, the current wage amongst all care providers is simply inadequate for the amount of workload we endure and all the tireless hours we put in to make a difference in our clients lives. All of us have taken on additional responsibilities as a severely understaffed organization during the entirety of the covid-19 pandemic. While most people got to stay in the comfort of their own homes, we were and still are in the front line putting ourselves and our loved ones at risk.

I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to work as a Direct Support Professional, but due to the current state of inflation and overall cost of living constantly on the rise, we simply cannot afford to get by on the wages we are currently receiving. I believe that the overall tremendous contributions we make have and continue to help our society immensely, I would like not only my own salary to be a reflection of that, but the amazing individuals I work amongst truly deserve not to live paycheck to paycheck. At the end of the day, all we want is to be heard and feel appreciated for the work we do with our most at risk citizens. I hope my testimony is helpful in the decision-making process. I appreciate the time and opportunity to vouch for all of the amazing health care providers.