

Submitter: Helen Johnson

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human
Services

Measure: HB5026

Co-Chair Campos and Valderrama,

I write to offer my support for a fully funded I/DD budget. In 2021, the Legislature made historic

investments in services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and for

the first time the I/DD system was FULLY FUNDED.

Even though this investment allowed us to

increase wages for DSPs by \$1.25 an hour (current average reimbursement wage for DSPs at

\$17.81), we still struggle with staff shortages. We must continue to move the Direct Support

Professional (DSP) workforce out of crisis.