

Submitter: Hunter Manni

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB5026

Please prioritize DD wages and support full funding of IDD services in HB 5026. I am asking that you not only protect your previous investment, but that you continue to help move this workforce out of crisis by supporting HB 2457 - it moves DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage. The kind of work Direct Support Professionals do is unlike any other job. They do not just provide ADLs to people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, they help them see their worth, find confidence in themselves and become a part of their communities. Direct Support Professionals wear many hats, such as mentors, budgeters, housekeepers, trainers, drivers, researchers, friends, family, and supporters. The work they provide benefits not only the people receiving the supports but benefits the community as well. Direct support professionals advocate for people with I/DD and help them learn to advocate for themselves. They advocate to the community to see their abilities, drive and show them how amazing people with I/DD are, and what they can bring to local businesses. This type of job deserves higher pay, but money does not mean everything, as these Direct Support Professionals believe in the work they do, and know they are making a difference in peoples lives and choose to stay solely based on those things.