

Submitter: Christine Hays

On Behalf
Of:

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

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Imagine you, or someone you love, becomes disabled or incapacitated and requires a caregiver, a direct support professional, to help you with the tasks of daily living, someone who will see you at your most vulnerable, someone whose compassion and professionalism you will utterly rely on. Now, you have two options - one is a caregiver earning the equivalent of a fast food job, who just needed a job, who was hired out of desperation because these jobs aren't compensated in a way that attracts a lot of quality candidates. The second option is a caregiver who is earning a living wage, who sees this job as a career, a calling, someone who was hired for their skills and experience because the employer had enough applicants to thoughtful in their choices of hires. Which would you want taking care of you or your loved one? I beg you to ensure these critical roles are better compensated so they can be filled with truly qualified and committed individuals.