

Submitter: Rebecca Denley

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB5026

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Rebecca Denley, and I am a Direct Support Professional with Living Opportunities, Inc. I prefer to call myself a "Direct Support Provider", because in my view, providing is what I do. To the individuals who experience Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) whom I serve, I provide far more than just medication. I provide comfort when they're upset, encouragement when they're trying something new, opportunities to develop their skills and contribute to their community, and a conduit for every time they encounter something in the world that wasn't made with them in mind. I have helped these people through traumas such as losing loved ones, planned many birthday and holiday parties, taken people on overnight trips, and helped them complete more medical appointments than I can count. My job is to build these people up, and I wouldn't trade it for the world. I love what I do. That said, I don't feel that my work is as valued financially by the state as it is realistically by the people I support. My coworkers and I are a vital contribution to this state and its people, and our wages need to be updated to reflect that as well as to keep up with the skyrocketing costs of living. I ask that all of you voting on HB 5026 consider carefully the rights and needs of the people for whom this bill could provide significant relief.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Denley