

Sen. Winsvey Campos, Co-Chair
Rep. Andrea Valderrama, Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human
Services
Support for HB 5026 – DHS Budget and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

March 2, 2023

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.