

Submitter: David Ledbetter

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. Direct support professionals and the staff surrounding them are an incredibly important asset to the communities they serve. We provide people with disabilities not just support in day-to-day living, but also remain constantly vigilant to make sure this vulnerable demographic is not being exploited.

On top of all this, as DSPs, we provide vocational training, as well as job coaching to not just keep these people off the street, but to help them become members of their communities and live full, happy lives. Being a successful DSP requires rigorous study, constant vigilance, a near infinite well of patience, and an unflappable work ethic and devotion to our clients and community at large.

It only makes sense that we should, as a state, incentivize people with these qualities to take to this field. Since currently with the state of the economy, it is becoming less and less financially feasible to sustain ourselves from the average wages of a DSP. This bill should be an easy decision, since not only is there a moral case for passing this bill, there is also a strong case that there will be a long term return on this investment in our state. Because not only will this keep folks with IDD off the street, it will also help to create and sustain a workforce that is eager to contribute to their community.