

Submitter: Shana Winn
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Hello!

My name is Shana Winn and I have been working at some capacity with individuals with disabilities my whole adult life! I have been blessed by knowing so many wonderful people throughout my lifetime. I have seen a lot of people grow and learn and be successful in many different ways. Just this past year I have watched somebody complete drivers education and get their license on a car that they worked really hard for! I have supported somebody in moving into their own apartment and living independently for the first time as an adult! I get to help people recognize and achieve their full potential and am a better person for it! I wouldn't be where I am if they haven't helped me to recognize my abilities as well. I have been fortunate enough to be in a management position since 2015 and have had a lot of ups and downs with the workforce. It is such a hard feeling to see somebody with a real connection to the people we serve leave to find more gainful employment and never come back. Some of the people I have supported are very lonely and have a hard time finding connections outside of paid support so it is extremely important that those people paid to support are doing it for the right reasons and know what an impact they are making on others!

Thank you for considering my testimony!

I am writing to ask that you protect your previous investment and continue to fully fund IDD

Services the budget. In addition, I am asking that you prioritize additional funding to support

increases in Direct Support Professional wages. Previous investment allowed us to increase

this crucial workforce's wages by \$1.25 an hour (current average reimbursement wage for

DSPs at \$17.81), yet provider agencies still struggle to recruit and retain the DSPs needed to

perform this vital work