

Submitter: Brandon Trujillo
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2560

Representatives of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

My name is Brandon Trujillo, and I am the Chief Steward of SEIU Local 858. As a DD Level 2B foster care provider, I support this bill but recommend the inclusion of all three licensing types (APD, DD, and OHA) into HB2560. Currently, HB2560 excludes DD and OHA adult foster homes. While I agree that APD requires an updated payment structure, I believe that all three licensing types should be included.

My primary concern is that the AFH provider input may be excluded from the restructuring of the rate methodology. Providers should play a crucial role in establishing the new rate structure, as we are the ones delivering services and fully understanding the time and effort required to support our individuals. Excluding providers could potentially lead to reduced rates, which would severely impact our homes.

As foster care providers, we have chosen to care for our individuals who cannot care for themselves, providing them with a home environment that everyone deserves. I firmly believe that our individuals thrive in a home setting rather than in larger facilities or group homes. I have a developmentally disabled foster home and my individuals struggle with communication. Living with our individuals allows us to understand their unique communication styles, which can be challenging for group homes with limited interaction and rotating staff. Foster homes provide the same level of care as group homes but with better understanding and consistent staffing.

Our individuals become part of our family. I am a fourth-generation foster care provider in Josephine County, where my family has provided homes for individuals who often move from place to place. We offer a stable home environment, something they typically lack. My family genuinely loves the work we do and deeply cares about our individuals.

Adult foster homes across all three licensing types have been overlooked in previous years regarding increased funding, which is essential for operating our homes as costs rise annually. As mentioned earlier, we deliver similar care to group homes but receive significantly lower service payments. Like any business, our costs increase, yet foster care providers often receive minimal increases. I urge you to consider my statement and amend the bill to include all three licensing types and involve us in the restructuring process. This will ensure that our service payments are not decreased.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

Brandon Trujillo