

I have been actively involved as a member of the Board of Directors with Partnerships in Community Living for the last thirty-five years. I have born witness over that time how hard it is for the organization to retain DSPs over a sustained period primarily due to low wages. This continual change-over of support personnel, and the needs to be continually searching to fill vacant positions and retrain is costly and grossly inefficient. This in turn also profoundly impacts the comfort and stability those we serve and support.

I am writing to urge you to support HB 2150 which creates an annual cost of living adjustment of no less than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all community provider services that are contracted through the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services.

This increase would allow community provider organizations to provide DSPs with annual wage increases and would help offset other rising costs. Chronic underfunding has created a \$558 million dollar gap between what providers are currently paid and what they need to sustain services into the future. This bill would keep that gap from growing larger by allowing providers to at least keep up with rising expenses.

Please, please, for the security and stability of those we employ and those we serve, support HB 2150.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher L. Harris