

Submitter: James Bennett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2150

Dear Chair Hartman and members of the committee,

I am writing to ask that you support HB 2150 with the -1 Amendment. This amended bill would direct the Department of Human Services (DHS) to include an annual cost of living adjustment into contracts with community provider organizations for the provision of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

DHS recently completed a study at the legislature's request that demonstrated chronic underfunding of these services has created a \$558 million gap between what providers are currently being paid and actual costs. This bill would keep that gap from growing larger by ensuring that annual increases of no less than the Consumer Price Index are included in DHS contracts for these services.

This bill help Direct Support Professionals wages keep up with inflation at a minimum, preventing this vital workforce from falling further behind.

I've been a professional in this field for over 15 years and this is very important for provider organizations to be able to support people holistically in their lives.

Please support HB 2150 with the -1 Amendment and prioritize funding for IDD services in the 2025-2027 Budget.