

Submitter: David Van Hook

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2150

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to support HB 2150 with the -2 Amendment, which would require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to include an annual cost-of-living adjustment in contracts with community provider organizations that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

At the legislature's request, DHS conducted a recent study revealing a \$558 million funding gap—the difference between what providers are paid and the actual cost of delivering these essential services. HB 2150 helps ensure this gap doesn't continue to grow by mandating that DHS contracts include annual increases tied to at least the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

This adjustment is critical to helping Direct Support Professionals keep up with inflation, ensuring their wages reflect the rising cost of living and supporting the stability of this vital workforce.

Please support HB 2150 with the -2 Amendment and make funding for IDD services a priority in the 2025–2027 Budget.