

Submitter: Marci Kallinger  
On Behalf Of: DSP's  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2150

Dear House Committee Members On Early Childhood and Human Services,

My name is Marci Kallinger and I am the Executive Director at the Ron Wilson Center in Monmouth, Polk County. I am writing today to ask you to support HB 2150 (with -2 amendment) because I have grave concern regarding the future of our services. Currently, we are already paying our DSP's more per hour than what we are getting reimbursed for per the ODDS rate model. Right now, RWC's average wage is \$19.96 per hour and we are only reimbursed for \$18.84 of that for each hour worked. Currently, we are using our reserves every month to fill in the gap. This means that I don't even have enough revenue to increase DSP wages as a result of cost of living increases. This bill does that for us and will at minimum give us enough money to help give some relief to our hardworking DSP's during times when the price of groceries, gas, utilities, rent/mortgage etc. increases. This workforce needs you so please, support HB 2150. Below are more details about the bill and additional reasons why you should support this amended bill:

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

Please support HB 2150 with the -2 Amendment and prioritize funding for IDD services in the 2025-2027 Budget.

Best Regards,  
Marci Kallinger  
Executive Director  
Ron Wilson Center

