

Submitter: Katy Reints
On Behalf Of: all DSP's and supporters of the IDD population
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5526

I have worked as a DSP and now a manager in residential care for adults with Intellectual or Developmental disabilities for 6+ years. I took a substantial pay cut from my previous job as a waitress/bartender to work here, but the payment that my soul receives is priceless. I still feel this way today and am so passionate about my job that I will likely never leave. But, because of this decision my kids and I suffer financially and always struggle to make ends meet. My kids have been great sports, and have also built relationships with the people I support and therefore they get it and are willing to sacrifice also. But we shouldn't have to sacrifice, especially when I have done the job of many...I have been their CNA, who gets paid more than me, been their personal assistant, their therapist, their physical therapist, their housekeeper, their chef, their maid, their personal shopper, their life coach, job coach, party planner, chauffeur, I could go on but my point is if you look up all of these things, that are also things people get paid to do, and they all get paid more than me and I literally do them all every day all at once and make just enough to not qualify for assistance anymore which I should be proud of, but I can't afford to be. It's just hard, but luckily for the amazing, innocent, funny, honest, full of life individuals that I get the pleasure of caring for, I'm not going anywhere. So, please support this bill so I can continue to support these people and be able to support myself and my family too, without having to choose between the power bill and the shoes that my son needs for track. It's just not okay to not get fairly compensated for the work that you do. Thank you kindly for taking the time to read this and for your consideration and for all that you do.