

Submitter: Rebeca Diaz-Schiller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5526

My name is Rebeca Diaz-Schiller, I am an Assistant Manager in Umpqua Homes, Inc. I am writing to implore you to support SB 5526. In UHI we support Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, I consider that we deserve fair wages, despite our commitment to provide quality care and transform the lives of the individuals we serve, definitively the stagnant wages fail to honor the invaluable impact of our work. A DSA (Direct Support Professionals) job is a huge one, not only is there a large aspect of healthcare involve, along with mental health, and literally just assisting individuals with the everyday task that every human being dose. DSPs we are cooks, Dietitians, CNAs without certification, physical therapist without diploma, we are Medical Aids and Behavior Specialist. We are man and woman with a big compassionate heart, patient listeners and sometimes punching bags and yet the role of DSPs seems to somehow slip through the cracks and go unnoticed, even forcing us to get a second or third job, working seven days a week 16 hrs. a day. Please, ladies and gentlemen, support SB 5526, DSPs/Caregivers we are always needed, nobody is exempt of getting old or ill and we will need of a caregiver soon or later, for ourselves or for our loved ones.