

From: [Colleen Conner](#)
To: [JWMHS Exhibits](#)
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 9:22:52 PM

Dear legislature-

I need you to ADD Pop 126 to HB 5026. I've been a patient advocate for several decades for the DD population, and a legal guardian for two decades.

If we parents are to get the help we need to help our children, then we need providers. We can't get those if the wages and benefits offered are sub-standard. It's a hard job in the best of circumstances. Without adequate pay to compensate, no one wants to do it. We do not have enough providers currently.

It would be a lot more costly to the state to re-open all the closed institutions. As it is, without community access thru trained providers, you aren't fulfilling what was promised years ago when those institutions that were up and running and our loved ones were promised good, accessible care in order to be part of our communities instead of being locked away.

Please fulfill your promises and adequately fund salaries and benefits for providers.

Thank you.

Colleen Conner, MPA

Paralegal, patient advocate