

Submitter: Jessa Wood

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2457

I have worked in Disability Services for five years and it is the most fulfilling job I have ever had. I make a difference in so many people's lives because of the work I do, but I struggle daily because this job takes an emotional toll and we can only do so much with the small amount of staff we have. With the cost of living increasing and inflation on the rise, any wage we raise doesn't make any effect in the people's wallets that provide direct support care. They work so hard and care so much and at the end of the day are slighted by the system, making this work not seem as important as it is. We lose so many people because they want to do this work, but it is not lucrative enough to keep them afloat and they have to look for higher wages elsewhere. We need more funding in order to provide more support, better support, and consistent support. Our goal is to provide the most support to the most people while maintaining high quality levels of care to increase the quality of life for the people in our services. The only way we can do that is if we offer a competitive wage and put value on the work that we do. I urge you to help push this through for the betterment of our community as a whole.