

Submitter: John Saito

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB5026

Hello.

I am the parent, legal guardian, and caregiver for a young adult with severe developmental disabilities. My daughter relies heavily on services managed through the Washington County Developmental Disabilities Division, and in the past, through the Child Intensive In-home Services . State and county service coordinators play a critical role in identifying and securing key supports for people like my daughter, including in times of crisis. When my daughter's behavior became unsafe, our services coordinator spend a tremendous amount of time and energy getting extensive home modifications approved and arranged. When we were seeking out-of-home overnight respite care, our services coordinator worked diligently to search for appropriate nearby residential care facilities. Right now, our services coordinator is busy finding and hopefully securing adult day programs for my daughter before she ages out of SPED. These are all time consuming activities that also require extensive training and support from a network of experienced service coordinators and managers. In order for people like my daughter to receive the support she needs, the caseload of service coordinators needs to be set so each case can be given the time and care the person with ID/DD deserves.

As such, I urge the Joint Committee on Ways & Means and the Subcommittee on Human Services to fully fund the budget proposed by ODDS and county ID/DD service program offices.