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On Behalf Of: Albertina Kerr
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I support an increase of 2025-2027 state budget.

As a DSP, we are paid to provide quality care for the people that we serve. However, the current wages do not match the current cost of living. We have to pick up overtime or work a second job to be able to make ends meet, most of the time we work with a skeleton crew because we are always so understaffed, and we all know the consequences of staff getting burned out. Our quality-of-care decreases when we can't take care of ourselves and that means that the people that we serve are not getting the best care that they could possibly get. Also, many of us have worked in this field for more than five years. I have a combined work experience of 11 years in this field. It is very rewarding, but the pay is not enough. An increase in pay could also help out with the high turnover rate that our field experiences.

Thank you.