

Submitter: Sarah Swenson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1505

Senator Jama and Members of the Committee;

I am writing to strongly oppose SB 1505. Please note that the entire IDD Community is

standing opposed to this bill. Adding another costly layer of bureaucracy to services that are

already heavily regulated service benefits no one. As a parent whose child receives services, this is a gross overreach of power requiring funds to be taken away from the very people who need it most, our DSPs.

The IDD community already has a very engaging process to develop rules and policy.

Everyone is welcome. This includes self-advocates, family members, providers and union

representatives and state and county officials. Please do not reduce this inclusive process to 11

unelected people making decisions about an industry they don't understand.

This bill will create confusing wage and benefit standards that mean nothing if not funded by the legislature. It also standardized services that are anything but standard, as

there are many different IDD services and each is uniquely designed to meet the needs and

desires of the person using the service. Do not remove choice and individualism for people with

intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Providers already pass on any rate increases to their Direct Support Professionals. This

is evidenced by the Rate and Wage study that shows an average wage that is well above what

is being reimbursed. The Rate and Wage model also gives you the tools and information you

need to fairly increase wages and benefits to a sustainable level. Don't waste funding on a

board to tell you this. You already paid for the study.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 1505. Do not allow an unelected board to take sweeping control

of these services.