



February 4, 2026

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr and respected committee members,

I'm Allen Cress, Executive Leader of Edwards Center, where we are honored to have served people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for more than fifty years.

You've no doubt read SB1505 as closely and carefully as I have. In my role as a person responsible for ensuring that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are appropriately supported in their homes, their jobs and their communities, I always run the decisions we make through a filter of, "How will this benefit the people we serve?" SB1505 will not benefit the people we serve. It will not benefit the Direct Support Professionals providing those services. Instead, it adds bureaucracy and expense to a system already overburdened by both.

Agencies like Edwards Center are incentivized to provide the most competitive wage and the best working conditions we can with the limited resources we have. We are constantly coming up with creative ways to attract DSPs to engage in this worthy work, even knowing we cannot pay them what they're worth. Instead of supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and the people who serve them, SB1505 adds layers of complexity and expense to an already complex and underfunded system.

I urge you to vote no on SB1505. It takes the authority to make new employment and workplace laws away from you, our elected officials, and gives that authority to an unelected board. Worse, it redirects limited, precious resources away from the people who already receive too little of them through lawsuits and penalties. The people we serve, and the people providing those services, are counting on you to make the right choice.

Very respectfully yours,

Allen R. Cress
Executive Leader, Edwards Center, Inc.