

Submitter:

Colette Arnold

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1505

I am a Personal Support Worker and have been doing this work for 32 years. By having a standard of care for I/DD and all homecare clients, we are driving home the point that these individuals matter and the care they receive needs to meet a minimum standard to help them succeed in life. I am about to start a position with a new client. When I asked if I could have a training day with the client and a currently employed PSW so the client could know me beyond the interview and I could learn more of the client's schedule, I was told no. I was told the client's 91-year-old mother, who is in a wheelchair herself and probably needs her own services, would direct me. This is a scary situation in my opinion because I don't think the mother provides much care for the client anymore due to her age and her own capabilities.

I care about the people in this field that need and deserve the best level of care that we can provide.

I am a diabetic and without healthcare I wouldn't survive. Healthcare allows me to see my doctor and get the necessary medications that allow me to be healthy enough to provide care to my current client and my new client.

Improved wages assist me to pay my bills—rent, water, electric, car loans—so that I can have a roof over my head and food on the table. With the cost of living rising faster than my paycheck, things have gotten tough. And now my primary client has lost 86 hours a month, forcing me to take on a new client and work outside of the home just to make ends meet.

Please support SB 1505.