

To: Those members of the House Appropriations Committee  
Re: Support of HB 1012  
From: Amy Anderson

I live in Valley City where the **Open Door Center** serves about 90 individuals with Developmental Disabilities. Out of 180 employees, about 160 are Direct Support Professionals.

I am very familiar with the work DSP do as my 71 year old sister is Developmentally Disabled and lives in an ODC group home. There are 5 clients living in that group home and she is the only verbal client and one of 2 that is ambulatory. The other 3 are in wheelchairs, which makes staffing this group home a challenge. There are normally 3-4 staff on during the day when they are not at day activity plus there is always a need for overnight wake staff. Keeping staff is hard because of the following challenges: some are on feeding tubes; a risk of medication errors due to the number of meds administered throughout the day; transporting in wheelchairs is time consuming when going out during the day and to social functions within the community, and working on holidays and weekends.

I ask that you support a 4% pay raise for DSP. They have to go above and beyond in their work to care for those who cannot care for themselves. Without good pay it is almost impossible to find people willing to work these jobs. Please thoughtfully consider what it means to help those who cannot do for themselves.

Sincerely,  
Amy Anderson  
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