

My name is Dorothy Smith, I live in Fairfield, and I'm writing on my own time in support of LD 1854. I am an eligibility specialist in the Skowhegan office. When I started there in May 2017, we had a full office. That is no longer the case. We are pretty much at half capacity. That means more work for everyone, including the supervisors. We keep getting asked to add more duties to our work, such as requesting SAVE for non-citizens, importing documents into DocuWare, etc. When we do hire new people, we wonder if they are going to stay or go somewhere else. The training takes way too long. It was 5 months when I started. Now it's 1 year. By the time people got out of training and have to do the real work, they don't want to do it anymore. What a waste of time and money! A better selection process of potential employees and a better training schedule is needed. I am a widow and my children are grown, so the only impact is on me. The more work that's added on equals more stress.

Another point I forgot to bring up is this. I reached the top of my paygrade a year ago & I plan to work 2 more years. So, no merit pay raises for me for 3 years! Is that FAIR? NO! I am an excellent worker & deserve to be rewarded for it. Please pass and fund LD 1854.