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I hope this finds you well!

I believe we are facing a systemic issue of increasing pressure on both caregivers and agencies. In order to provide quality service to clients who need it most, caregivers (DSPs) must be continuously trained and educated, as well as to feel fairly compensated for the work they do. They also need to make a living wage to avoid working 80 hours a week via either overtime or holding 2 to 3 jobs.

In order to do this, as well as pay for rising employee benefit costs, general upkeep of homes and offices, rising insurance costs, etc., agencies must be paid a fair reimbursement rate to pay the employees a reasonable wage.

If the pressure continues to mount, more and more agencies will be forced to close the doors, and it is not a viable and sustainable option to believe that all of these clients with intellectual disabilities and autism can be supported by a single person in a shared living environment. This will likely lead to high levels of burnout, neglect, abuse, and instability for the clients. Please consider some of these points when deciding whether the reimbursement rates should increase to reflect fair compensation for direct support professionals.

Thank you!