

Jack Mohrbacher  
Biddeford  
LD 1932

Hello my name is Jack Mohrbacher and I work as a Direct Support Professional at a community support program in Biddeford, Maine called Creative Trails. I'm submitting testimony in support of LD 1932 "An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development". I would first like to thank the legislature and Speaker Fecteau for continually working to address this issue for care workers and all the Mainers we support. I believe the passage of this act would have a transformational effect on the care workforce. In my experience low wages are the number one reason for turnover in this field. I see my coworkers consistently struggle with financial emergencies such as car repairs or medical expenses in a way that it totally destabilizing to their livelihoods. This high turnover rate in turn hurts the standard of care for the people receiving services. What I hear from the individuals I support is that constant staff turnover leads to interruptions and mistakes with their care as new staff without an understanding of the individual's needs are unable to properly serve them. The care work with these vulnerable populations is highly skilled and hinges on long term relationship building. A more competitive wage would lead to more qualified workers who would be able to financially survive and continue to do this work long term. Ultimately this would lead to a higher standard of care for Mainers and less cost to the state with a more stable workforce. Also on a personal level I believe this act would make care workers feel more stable and supported by the state and reduce emotional burnout. Thank you for listening to everyone's testimony and seriously considering this issue.