

Testimony of Cory Reynolds

January 21, 2026

Testimony to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services in support of LD 1932, “An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development”

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Cory Reynolds. I live in Dexter, and I am here to speak in **strong support of LD-1932**, a bill to increase pay for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and other essential support workers.

I'm speaking today in gratitude for the hard work our DSPs perform in our community and home support programs. They are supportive, creative, and encourage us to learn new skills every day. Our DSP staff helps us with goals we set for ourselves. They help us to get out into our communities to participate in activities, go to stores, and medical appointments. **Our staff makes it possible** for us to spend time with our friends and even take trips to places like the State House.

During COVID, it was hard not to have our DSPs working with us. It was very upsetting not to be able to see friends to socialize and be out in the community. Even now, there are times that we don't have enough staff, so shifts are cancelled for community and home supports. That makes it hard for people who depend on DSPs to help them get out into their community and hard to keep connected with our friends.

Our DSPs go above and beyond every day. With the rising costs of living, they not only deserve a raise, but they also need it to be able to continue working in this field. Our staff at Living Innovations work tirelessly. I've told our program manager that they deserve a raise. I appreciate everything they do to assist me and my friends.

Our DSPs help us to find and use our voices to advocate for ourselves. I am here now to use my voice to advocate for them. I urge you support DSPs and vote ought to pass on LD-1932.

Thank You.