

Meagan Sturgis
Gallant Therapy Services
LD 1932

Senator, Representative, and members of the Committee,
My name is Meagan Sturgis, and I work as a BHP in Section 28 for Gallant Therapy Services.

I am writing in support of LD 1932.

Working in this field brings both fulfillment and challenge. Consumers and families allow us to be part of their lives and growth, supporting them to learn skills and take part in opportunities that promote independence, community, integration, and safety. This makes a marked difference in their lives, support workers' lives, and those of the greater community. This work is integral for the health and wellness of all it touches, and as such deserves adequate training and fair compensation. There is such a strong need for these services in our state, and often due to lack of access to training and higher wages, it is challenging for workers to keep up with the needs that are present. This can lead to burnout both physically and emotionally, which is why the turnover rate in this field is at the level that it is.

LD 1932 would have a domino effect on the larger community by supporting and empowering BHP's and DSP's, which would in turn promote longevity in this role and ultimately allow more people to be supported. It is a powerful experience to be part of and witness the wonderful humans that we support to make community connections, explore career opportunities and growth, and to feel empowered to live life to their fullest. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Meagan Sturgis
Section 28 Program Director and BHP
Hermon, Maine