

Jessica Arsenault

Mexico

LD 1932

Good Morning,

I am writing in support of LD 1932 and the Speaker's proposed amendment.

Direct Support Professionals are essential to the people we serve. They support adults with IDD and autism to live safely, work, and participate in their communities. However, our ability to recruit and retain DSPs continues to be challenged by low wages and increasing competition from other industries.

LD 1932 is an important step toward stabilizing this workforce and protecting access to services. When providers cannot retain staff, individuals experience disruptions in care and fewer opportunities for independence and community inclusion.

I also support the Speaker's amendment, which ensures that wage requirements are tied to legislative appropriations.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Maine's community services system. I urge you to support LD 1932 with the Speaker's amendment.