



It's more than an experiential community support program...It's a movement!

Testimony of: Scott Miller

LD 1932: An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

January 20, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 1932: *An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development*.

My name is Scott Miller, I am the community support service director of Creative Trails, which is a program of Support Solutions. We serve over 160 waiver recipient adults with intellectual disabilities in 5 locations throughout Cumberland and York County. We offer Foundation, Leadership and Certificate programs. Our goal is to engage the participants in a meaningful way that offers sophisticated opportunities based on their desires to strengthen their independence, skill sets, and career exploration while in their community.

- Thank you Speaker Fecteau and bill sponsors for supporting this workforce and direct care services through this bill.
- By having better/livable wages for our DSP's would greatly benefit them to live a life of not being completely stressed on how to afford the basics to live in Maine.
- We have had the highest turnover in the 25 years I have been in this field due to DSP's realizing after 6 months they cannot afford to work at a job they love. On our exit interviews every employee has made this comment clear.
- Finding new employees is extremely costly and we constantly need to be looking. This can exceed over \$10k in advertising fees per year. Not to mention training costs are now much higher as a result.
- We have a strong need for competitive wages to attract workers to stabilize and grow the workforce.
- The necessity of this increase to offset the lack of a full COLA (reflective of the minimum wage increase in 2025/26)
- If we continue at rates that don't support competitive wages this will greatly impact our intellectual disability community and could eventually lead to closures.

Please support LD 1932

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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