

Victoria Durrell
Brunswick
LD 1932

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

My name is Vicki Durrell and I am the mother of Matthew Durrell who has lived in a group home provided by Independence Association, a Brunswick-based nonprofit organization that provides support services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. His everyday needs are met by the dedicated Direct Support Professionals who work in his home.

DSPs are entrusted with the health, safety, dignity, and well-being of individuals with significant support needs. They administer medications, respond to medical and behavioral crises, assist individuals in their homes and communities, and support people in living fuller, more independent lives. The level of responsibility placed on DSPs is substantial, yet their compensation does not reflect either the complexity or the importance of the work they perform. I trust them with my son's life.

Please support these hard working, dedicated people.

I respectfully urge you to support LD 1932 and take a meaningful step toward strengthening and stabilizing this essential workforce. Thank you for your time and consideration