



TESTIMONY

LD 210, HPO 132: An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 20, 2026, and June 30, 2027

**Patience Success Juwah, Direct Support Professional (DSP) on Behalf of
The Direct Care and Support Professional Advisory Council**

February 12, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Patience Success Juwah. I work as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) in a group home. I have over 5 years of experience. I am here today to provide testimony on behalf of the Direct Care and Support Professional Council.

The Council was established to provide a strong voice for direct care and support professionals in long-term services and support settings across the state.

As a DSP, I take care of individuals with intellectual disabilities, I advocate for the people I support, and I assist them with their daily needs.

I chose this career because I am passionate about helping people. People with disabilities are special, and they deserve to be happy, so putting smiles on their faces is what gives me joy.

Though the wages and benefits might not be motivating, this does not change my passion about providing quality care for the people I support. However, due to the low wages and benefits received by DSPs, it has resulted in them engaging in more than one job and high turnover rates.

The cost-of-living adjustments are critical to attracting and retaining direct care and support professionals – failing to invest in this workforce risks significant health and economic impacts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.