



## **Testimony of Gabriel Lunganga**

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

**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

**January 20, 2026**

#### **Testimony in Support of LD 1932**

*Gabriel Lungana, Direct Support Professional, 3Rivers*

Good afternoon Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of LD 1932.

My name is Gabriel Lunganga, and I am a Direct Support Professional at 3Rivers. I am proud of the work I do and the people I support. Being a DSP is not just a job to me, it is about showing up for others, building trust, and helping people live the best lives they can in their communities.

During my time working at 3Rivers, I experienced something incredibly difficult and frightening. I was detained by ICE, despite having done nothing wrong. I was held at the Cumberland County Jail for three weeks. Those weeks felt very long. I was scared, uncertain, and worried about my future.

But even while I was detained, my biggest concern was not just for myself, it was for the people I support. I kept thinking about my clients, their routines, and how the disruption might affect them. That is how deeply this work stays with you when you are a DSP.

From the very beginning, 3Rivers stood by me. They did not give up on me, and they did not treat me like I was disposable. They helped me keep hope during a time when it would have been easy to lose it. The organization sent me money so I could buy basic items while I was detained. They provided documents I needed, wrote letters and testimony on my behalf to the judge, and advocated for me by explaining the importance of my work and the quality of care I provide to the people I support.

Even more than that, 3Rivers continued to pay me my regular wages while I was detained, so I would not lose my housing or my car. That level of support changed everything for me. It allowed me to focus on getting through an incredibly hard experience without losing the life I had worked so hard to build.

I cannot imagine working for another company, even one that paid more, and receiving that kind of care, loyalty, and belief in me as a worker and as a person. 3Rivers was there for me from the beginning, and that is something I will never forget.

This experience reinforced for me how important it is to support and stabilize the direct care workforce. DSPs carry enormous responsibility. We support people through their daily lives, through change,

through crisis, and through stability. When DSPs are supported, valued, and able to stay in their jobs, the people we serve are safer, healthier, and more secure.

LD 1932 matters because it recognizes that Direct Support Professionals are essential. Supporting DSPs means supporting the individuals and families who rely on us every day. It means building a system rooted in stability, dignity, and care, for workers and for the people we support.

I am proud to be a DSP. I am proud to work for 3Rivers. And I urge you to support LD 1932.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gabriel Lunganga

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