

TESTIMONY

IN SUPPORT

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 honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Justin Dyer, I am a dsp, Crma, Mhrt-1, and QBISP credentials, serving individuals with TBI, and Mental/cognitive Barriers.

I am here today in support of this legislation that would increase wages for Essential Support Workers.

I currently work on an average of 60 hours a week. That is a total of 300 hours a month. That barely makes ends meet. LD 1932 would help with the cost of living and balance out work home life. When you work long hours, this causes burn out and high turnover. This makes a high tense stressful more intense, in which this leads to more people leaving the field. If this bill passes it would help fight Burn out and fatigue. This Bill would lead to less hours, which would make a more safer and less intense work environment.

I must find other ways to cut my costs and find other sources of income such as a second job or other means. I enjoy my job and love helping others reach the most independence they can achieve. Unfortunately, I cannot afford or continue working long hours at the cost of my family. The years of working long hours at low pay have had a personal cost to me in many ways. As many other professionals that are in the field find us asking the same question of do we need to change careers. Not because we want to, but because we have no choice. This bill would help us not make the choice to leave.

I have chosen to get into this work due to growing up in a family with members that receive different types of services. I saw firsthand what it meant to see how one person makes a difference. I chose to be the one person in someone else's life. One a closing notes this bill would be a start to helping others to make the same choice as I did. If the pay is not a stable wage. Others will be forced to

leave the field. Then who will be there one to help our loved ones or even ourselves if there is nobody left to complete the work.

Thank you for your consideration.