

Megan Meehan
South Portland

Good afternoon, Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Megan Meehan. I have been working as an adult case manager for the past six years. I will hit my seventh year anniversary next month. Do you know how rare seven years is in this position? I do not have enough fingers and toes to count the amount of case managers I have seen come and go within that timeframe. People do not quit this job because they for their lack of care and compassion for those with disabilities. They leave because the responsibilities are endless, and the pay is poor. A case manager's starting wage is just over \$17.00 per hour, and one has to have a Bachelor's Degree for this role. I went to a four year college to be making slightly more than someone at McDonald's, except they presumably don't have thousands of dollars in student debt. It is utterly defeating. I do not take pity upon myself. I chose to be a case manager to advocate and support those with autism and intellectual disabilities. I am, however, concerned how this turnover directly impacts the lives of those with disabilities. The revolving door of case managers makes service delivery inconsistent and erodes trust. If not for me and the other tired, hardworking case managers, please support LD415 for those living with autism and intellectual disabilities. They deserve the best services and supports that Maine can offer. Thank you!