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Good Morning Senator Claxton, Representative Myer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I am in support of LD 1573 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study Longer-Term Care Workforce Issues. It is vital that DSP's make a livable wage for all the responsibilities we have in order to keep the health and safety of the people we support.

It is very important to me and my family that my wages as a DSP rise. The care that we provide for the clients that we serve is very time consuming, strenuous, hard, and very challenging. These clients struggle with developmental disabilities and mental illness. On any given day they can have severe behaviors causing injury to self and staff. It is our job to keep them safe and others around us safe, including ourselves but that can be a huge challenge. Not only can it be challenging work but the pay is not great for what we do. I have two children to provide for and several bills that sometimes I have to choose which is important to pay and which can wait. I shouldn't have to live paycheck to paycheck. Please please take into consideration of raising the DSP staff wages. It would be so highly and greatly appreciated!

Thank you for taking the time to read this!