

Toby Paradis  
Bucksport

Good morning, Senator Claxton, Representative Myer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 1573 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues.

My name is Toby, and I am in support of increasing wages for Maine DSP's because I have dear friends doing so much good for a vulnerable population. They are tirelessly rising to the occasion and Maine does not respect all that it takes to do the job. They sacrifice their family time to ensure these amazing folks are always happy, healthy and safe but with the high turnover rate this is almost always never in balance.

I see the passion they have for what they do and the people they support but cannot effectively do their jobs when they must work more hours to make ends meet and are consistently short staffed leaving them immensely worn down. I would love our state to respect these fine people by raising wages so that staff and people supported are not suffering.

Sincerely,  
Toby Paradis  
Bucksport, Maine