

Michelle Pepin  
Spurwink

I have been in the healthcare field for over 25 years as a CNA/ DSP, although I love helping people, it is hard not to want/need more money per hour. Especially in this day and age of minimum wage skyrocketing and a lot of people take the higher paying jobs for the money and no skills needed. I have been a Residential Supervisor for almost a year now and plenty of applications have come in but once they find out the hourly pay (\$13) with no bonuses they are no longer interested. This is very sad as our Population of people with disabilities are suffering, the programs are short staffed, the staff that are working are picking up overtime(sometimes because they have too), they are getting tired and burnt out. As a Residential Supervisor of a 4 bed facility it is very frustrating to find help. If the applicant does make it to the interview they either didn't know the hourly wage before or they try to negotiate which it is a set hourly wage no matter how many years of experience or training. Usually the applicant doesn't want to go any further with the hiring process. I feel that \$15 per hour is fair and would help our much needed staffing issues. In all reality we are a population of workers that need to be heard so we not only can give proper attention and care to our people served, But to feel acknowledged and to be able to pay our bills. Please deeply consider this bill to be passed so that our DSP's can move forward in supporting our clients in this time of need.