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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 Erica, I am a former direct care worker and I am a friend to many people who work as a DSP. I left this line of work because we were consistently understaffed, stressed out, and working too many hours just to survive. I would gladly return if our state would respect the work that is done day in and day out by dedicated people like my friends. Their lives have suffered even more so since the pandemic started. They have so little time to recharge and are constantly rising to the challenge. While they are doing this incredibly hard work their families suffer either by lack of funds to live a good life or working too much to make those ends meet. Raise the wages so that one of the most vulnerable populations does not suffer because their staff are working in stressful situations due to high turnover.

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