

## BRIEFING SHEET: MINIMUM WAGE AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES

### What happened with HB 166/SB 280

“Fight for \$15”?

The House of Delegates passed the bill with changes that:

- Significantly decrease the rate adjustments for developmental disability community services to 3% annually, a level that does not come close to keeping pace with the minimum wage increases;
- add 7 additional Medicaid provider groups to the bill to receive annual rate increases, all at a higher rate than DD services;
- took a one-size fits all approach to the provider rate increases, adding a 1% increase to the projected baseline rate increases for each set of providers. Because DD providers have traditionally had the lowest level of funding, the 1% increase resulted in DD providers getting the lowest increase in the bill.

The Senate amended the bill to:

- increase funding for DD services to: 5%, 5%, 4.5%, 4%, 4% and 3%. These rates are *critical* to allowing DD providers to keep their doors open.

### What happens next?

- Both bills go over to the House on Friday, 3/15, where they will likely be assigned to a conference committee to work out differences.
- We are concerned that the House may reject or cut the rates adopted the Senate, which could result in lower rates adopted by the conference committee.

### Why is this dire?

- Cuts to the Senate increases for DD community services will result in rates that will:
  - not be enough to sustain DD community services as the minimum wage goes up;



- not be enough to pay the direct support workforce minimum wage as the \$15/hr is phased in;
- further exacerbate an already untenable workforce crisis with high vacancy and turnover rates;
- force many community providers to close their doors;
- deny thousands of Marylanders with developmental disabilities the services they need to live, learn work and play in the community.

**We urge members of the House to:**

**SUPPORT THE RATE INCREASES FOR DD COMMUNITY SERVICES INCLUDED IN THE SENATE AMENDMENTS.**

<b>FY 21:</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>FY 22:</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>FY 23:</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>FY 24:</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>FY 25:</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>FY 26:</b>	<b>3%</b>

It is important to note that these rate increases are based specifically on the needs of the developmental disability community services rate system and were carefully calculated to keep direct support wages above the minimum wage. Not all provider groups in the bill need, nor have requested, the same rate increases.

**Elected leaders have a responsibility to support, not harm, citizens with developmental disabilities. We URGE our DELEGATES to take action to support the Senate amendments for DD Community Services.**

**WE ARE FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES!**