

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.

FY 21:	5%
FY 22:	5%
FY 23:	4.5%
FY 24:	4%
FY 25:	4%
FY 26:	3%

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!