

Dear Governor Murphy,

Thanksgiving is upon us and I am thankful to be a Direct Support Professional (DSP) assisting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but the low wages make it incredibly difficult for me to stay in this line of work. DSP work can include everything from personal care and physical support to community integration and independent living skills.

In my role supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, I am able to make a difference for both the individual and their family. People with I/DD depend on me every day. I love what I do, but salaries for DSPs must be increased so I can support my own family. The work I do is critical for people with I/DD and the State must recognize how important it is by increasing wages in the FY'21 Budget.

Sincerely,

