



LIFE Inc.

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Liz Wiedenhofer, and I am the Executive Director of L.I.F.E. Inc., an agency that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a variety of different service areas. I am writing to the committee in support of HB 7591 and SB 2553, which will strengthen the Rate Reform bill that was passed in 2022 by requiring the Governor to include the full OHIC recommended rates in his annual budget submission.

Within the community of our agency, I have seen the impact that the Rate Reform process has had on those the LIFE supports, their families and the staff that we employ. The progress that has already been made has had a tremendous impact on attracting and retaining staff, which leads to a more predictable and improved experience for the person with a disability, as they are able to count on needed support and make long term relationships with staff. Having more staff also takes the pressure off existing members of the team to fill open shifts and allows for more purposeful training time that improves the experience for the person receiving services.

Beyond the participants and staff at LIFE, these bills will also have a tremendous impact on our neighbors, families, and friends, as these bills would also reach seniors, children, families at risk or in crisis, and people with behavioral health conditions and substance use. We believe that these bills would have a positive and meaningful ripple effect throughout our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Liz Wiedenhofer

L.I.F.E. Inc.