



UPLIFTING THE WORKFORCE

Staff in the human service field are often underpaid and have inadequate benefits and training opportunities. This makes it hard to hire people and challenging to retain staff. This leaves thousands of individuals with IDD and autism on waitlists for services.

INCREASING WAGES (H2104/S1325)

- This bill will require that the salaries of direct support professionals and direct care staff be maintained at or above the 75th percentile of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Over time, this means that wages will increase.

TURNING 22 PLANNING (H752/S313)

- This bill will require that transition plans be developed at least a year before a person transitions to adult services at age 22. This will allow more time for the person and their family to work with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to plan and prepare for the future.
- It will also establish a commission to examine gaps in the system and identify opportunities to improve the turning 22 process.

FAMILY MEMBERS AS PAID CAREGIVERS (H1394/S886)

- This bill will permit caregivers and guardians to be paid to provide Personal Care Attendants (PCA) and Adult Family/Foster Care (AFC) services.

NICKY'S LAW EXPANSION (H243/S139/S165)

- These bills will expand the protections of Nicky's Law by including providers in MassHealth Day Habilitation programs in the list of who is required to use the abuse registry before making hiring decisions.

LOAN REPAYMENT (H283/S119)

- Establish a loan repayment program for human services workers.
- This will encourage people to go into the human service field, reducing the waitlists for programs.