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Testimony to Senate Committee Health and Welfare

Hasan Ko

March 29, 2024

Madame Chair and Senate Health and Welfare Committee Members,

For the record, I'm Hasan Ko, I live in Winooski with my parents and I have been using Disability Services from Champlain Community Services (CCS) since 2015. I work with numerous Direct Support Professionals (DSP) at CCS. The DSPs that I work with need enough money to take care of their everyday lives as well. We need more money to give them a raise. I have lost valuable staff because they weren't getting paid as much as they needed. We need to have more DSPs at our agency. Since COVID started we have lost a lot of amazing people in my agency. We need to keep good people. I want consistency with the DSPs I work with, and the friends I talk to want the same thing.

I need DSPs to be able to do my job. I am a mentor for people with Disabilities. I help them achieve their goals and dreams. I like my job because I work with different people with Disabilities. I need to go places to work with people with Disabilities. It is very hard to lose staff all the time. In our Disability world, our needs are the same as yours, stable living, Direct Support Professionals help me to achieve that. Thank you for inviting me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hasan Ko,