

Illinois Parents of Adults with Developmental Disabilities, Unite!

We are a group comprised of nearly 1,500 Illinois adults with developmental disabilities plus our voting allies – parents, adult siblings, neighbors, friends, co-workers, supervisors, schools, adult service providers, and faith communities. We stand together, united, advocating for ordinary lives that so many take for granted. Access to communities all over Illinois in which we live, work, and socialize in relationships with people built over time. Where we feel respected, valued, and known. Our 2016 priorities include:

***RAISE THE WAGE FOR DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS (DSPs)**

Problem: Personal Assistants in the DRS Home Services Program earn \$13/hour to support one person in their home. DSPs in DDD Home and Community Based Support Waivers earn \$9.35/hour to do similar work in our homes, day and community services. But DSPs are often responsible for more than one person - there can be eight or more of us being supported by one DSP at any given time! Agencies have 30% turnover and 20+% DSP vacancies. This is a very real crisis for us. We want to feel safe.

Solution: Co-Sponsor HB 5931 or SB 2952. *Raise wages to \$15/hour for DSPs to more accurately reflect current job market and minimum qualification thresholds that match 2016 job duties and skill requirements. Agencies can afford to develop smaller, more customized services that we want and need, with a more skilled and stable workforce better positioned to meet new CMS guidelines. Illinois leaves fewer federal matching dollars on the table. We feel safer. But first you have to raise the wage.*

***FAIR AND EQUITABLE PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE (PNA)**

Problem: Illinois allows those of us living in CILAs to keep \$50/month of our Social Security Income and those living in ICF-DDs \$30/month to pay for personal necessities – deodorant, shampoo, incontinence supplies, medication co-pays, toothbrushes, cold or cough syrups, haircuts, shoes, clothing, bedding, undergarments. Actual monthly costs exceed \$75, and that's only for basic necessities.

Solution: Co-Sponsor HB 4461 or SB 2262. *Raise the PNA now and tie it to an indicator that makes future adjustments fair and automatic.*

***EXPAND WAIVER CAPACITY. INCENTIVIZE MODERN MODELS AND OUTCOMES.**

Problem: After sunset of Ligas Consent decree, thousands of us are once again at the mercy of legislative appropriations or crisis to move off the PUNS waiting list and into community. Seniors in Community Care and persons with physical disabilities who need services in their homes have NO WAITING LIST AT ALL. Those with developmental disabilities who agree to move into ICF-DD placements have no waiting list either. This is unjust! Why are people with I/DDs needing Home Based services or who need smaller, more individualized CILA supports being singled out to wait indefinitely or until a crisis happens to get services?

Solution: Co-Sponsor SB3069. *Guarantee 500 people a year move off the DDD PUNS list. Partner with us to design modern, performance-driven Employment, Day/Community Access and Residential/Supportive Living services that are person-centered and meet CMS guidelines.*

VALUE OUR LIVES. VALUE OUR FUTURES. STAND WITH US.

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