

Date: January 31,2023

To: Chair Noor and Members of the Human Service Finance Committee

From: Jesse and Patty Brinker, Brinker Home

Subject: DWRS, workforce crisis and effects on Family Foster Care/FRS Homes

Hello, We are a family foster care provider and have been since 2015. We live in our own home and care for 3 people with disabilities. All of these persons have lived in our home for the past 5-7 years. Those we care for all have 24/7 needs with medical and behavior issues.

I am sending you this letter in support of the Best Life Alliance Legislation. Family/FRS homes need to be able to pay staff an adequate wage so we can keep staff and that we can have staff who are qualified. The current workforce shortage impacts both CRS and FRS homes as we fight to get adequate staff to work in our homes and help care for our people.

Just because we live in our own homes we should NOT be paid less for staff as we are there working just as hard and most often get very little time off as we can't find and keep staff due to the low wages set up in the framework.

Please help us, both CRS and FRS providers< improve the services we provide by improving our rates to find and keep good staff. We choose to care for those with disabilities, but did not go into this thinking we could or would not be able to pay staff a wage to keep them working.

Please support the Best Life Alliance Legislation! It is important to ALL with disabilities.

Jesse and Patty Brinker, owners
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