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WE HAVE A DIRECT CARE WORKER CRISIS IN MICHIGAN

- People with developmental disabilities or mental illness who rely on **Direct Care Workers** for essential supports which enable them to access their communities, work, and live full, meaningful lives face critical, even life-threatening, staffing shortages.
- Inadequate wages, which are tied to Medicaid funding, have created this **Direct Care Worker** shortage.
- Turnover rates average 37%, and providers cannot compete with other businesses that offer higher wages, often with fewer work demands.

WE MUST RESPOND BEFORE THE CRISIS GETS WORSE

- An increase in Medicaid funding to provide for a \$0.50 per hour wage increase for **Direct Care Workers** would advance the corrective actions recommended in the 2016 Section 1009 legislative report by improving the safety and quality of life for individuals with disabilities, increasing their access to supports and services and bolstering **Direct Care Worker** recruitment and retention.
- The estimated annual cost from Michigan's General Fund would be **\$22 million**, monies which would be matched approximately 2-1 with an estimated **\$45 million** in federal Medicaid dollars.

50,000 DIRECT CARE WORKERS ARE NEEDED TO PROVIDE CRUCIAL SUPPORTS AND SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE A MENTAL ILLNESS AND/OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY. THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM ALONE PROVIDES SERVICES TO APPROXIMATELY 300,000 MICHIGAN CONSTITUENTS. THIS SYSTEM DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IMPACTS MORE THAN TWO MILLION MICHIGAN CITIZENS.



"Protecting the Rights of Persons With Disabilities"



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