

! a message from **OUR CEO**

KIM CORNWELL
EP!C CEO

ACTION ALERT: TELL LEGISLATORS: PRIORITIZE THE INTELLECTUALLY AND DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED COMMUNITY!

The intellectually and developmentally disabled community system is in an incredibly fragile state, and community agencies are being forced to turn away new residents because of the lack of staff. Funding for our services are based on reimbursement rates (see our previous legislative update in regards to the rate calculator issues).

Despite the Guidehouse study recommendations, the Governor's proposed budget only supports a \$1.50/hr. increase in rate reimbursement for care. Among a caregiver crisis combined with rising minimum wage demands, Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) deserve a professional wage vs. a minimum wage. To allow support agencies like EP!C to compete for qualified staff it's imperative that legislators approve a \$4.00 increase for DSP hours across the State.

"They Deserve More" is a statewide coalition of families and friends of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, nonprofit community providers like EP!C, advocacy organizations and more who believe People with Disabilities DESERVE to have committed DSPs supporting them and the importance of DSPs earning a living wage VS a minimum wage. DSP's are the lifeblood of EP!C and other provider agencies. EP!C hopes you will join us in the They Deserve More campaign to end a devastating crisis that threatens the important services people receive. It is time to make a stand for Illinoisans with developmental disabilities and the DSPs that serve them. They both deserve more.

TAKE ACTION: It takes less than a minute to send emails Leaders. Click the link provided on our website to fill out a simple form that automates everything for you. By Wednesday, April 26 sign a witness slip in as a PROMONENT of **SB2026**, those instructions are also on our website. Take direct action today and encourage your family and friends to do the same!



Thank you on behalf of EP!C Individuals and Staff.