Testimony

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I have worked for CLASP Homes for 32 years and I can count on one hand the years that we were able to give our staff raises! Our staff go year after year without a raise, we work tirelessly on fundraising so that we can give them some type of incentive to keep working for us. Its mind blowing that they stay. They work everyday with great responsibility on their shoulders. They are responsible for the well being of people lives. Over the years I have thought to myself why do we stay working in such a stressful job for such little pay? The only answer I can ever come up with is "if we don't do it who will". We care deeply for the people we serve and they need good people to watch out for them, and ensure more than just their basic needs are being met.

It is becoming harder to hire good qualified people because people are figuring out they can apply for a much less stressful job and make the same money. When is the state going to see that we need to invest in the people who need day to day care- In todays world I would expect nothing less-

Let me ask you this – would you work for $14.50 if your day to day job could consist of:

Getting spit at

Punched

Hair pulled

Had to clean up feces, urine

Had to ensure someone never ate the wrong food consistency for fear they may choke

Be responsible for safely getting them to all their doctors appointments – and if they're late and don't have proper documentation being sited by the state because they didn't receive care in a timely manner

Getting calls 24/7 because there is always an issue that needs solving

Having to work holidays because group home work is 24/7

After 32 years I think its finally time to pay our employees what theyre worth. And especially after this COVID year! We had employees put their lives on the line everyday through this pandemic! They showed up and ensured the safety of each individual we serve!!! They deserve to finally be compensated and paid for the priceless work they do