

Penelope Barsch

I am the mother/guardian of a person with multiple disabilities and multiple abilities. Both his disabilities and his abilities require trained and patient staff. The staff in the private sector deserve and increase in pay. These are the daily tasks they must do to support my son.

Use a lift to transfer in and out of bed and onto an adaptive toilet seat, his wheelchair and into the tub.

Dress him including his compressions stockings and his ankle foot orthosis. He requires full assist over his body and contracted arm.

Follow the medical orders for med administration.

Prepare his meal according to swallowing protocol.

Change his colostomy bag twice daily. Bowel sometimes leaks as they are cleaning the area.

Place him in a stander for exercise and complete two different stretching programs.

Show patience and kindness with his limited communication.

Design and implement daily activities to support his emotional and social needs.

Clean the group home, cook meals, laundry and shop.

What is the value of such a staff person who completes all this on a shift? It is so much greater than the current compensation they receive. I ask you to consider if this were your loved one. Would you want someone who feels valued and compensated for their job taking care of them? For too many years the private sector staff have not been compensated for their responsibilities in group homes.