

Dear Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member McNally:

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 225, which seeks to ensure that workers with disabilities are paid at least the minimum wage. I believe that all workers, regardless of ability, deserve fair compensation for their contributions to the workforce. The subminimum wage undermines the dignity and value of individuals with disabilities and perpetuates inequality.

At the same time, I urge thoughtful implementation of this bill to ensure that higher wages are matched by meaningful opportunities and expectations. Workers with disabilities, like all workers, should be supported to meet workplace standards through appropriate training, accommodations, and high expectations. Fair wages must come with the understanding that all employees are held to a level of accountability appropriate to their roles and abilities.

Furthermore, I am deeply concerned about organizations that benefit from federal and state funding—such as Medicaid—while paying workers with disabilities far below a living wage. It is unjust for any agency or business to profit from these programs while compensating their workers inadequately. Public funds should support inclusive, fair workplaces—not subsidize inequity.

House Bill 225 represents a crucial step forward in promoting economic justice and respect for people with disabilities. I encourage you to support this legislation and to ensure its implementation honors both the rights and the responsibilities of all workers.

Thank you for your attention and your service.

Sincerely,

Daniel E Kelley