

# PETITION

## FOR FULL FUNDING OF THE DDDS DSP RATE

I am signing this petition to ask the Delaware General Assembly to pass **House Bill 433** introduced by Representative Melanie George Smith in June 2016.

House Bill 433 takes an important step forward by adding funds to the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) budget\* so that payment rates for providers can be set according to the 2014 market study, which would allow providers to increase the average pay for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to \$12.75 an hour and to cover their other costs of doing business.

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities rely on DSPs to live safe and fully integrated lives, as required by the Statewide Transition Plan. Family members want to have a more stable workforce serving their loved ones, instead of the high staff turnover levels that currently exist. DSPs need better pay, so they don't have to work two jobs just to support themselves and their families.

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(Name – please print)

(Optional - E-mail address\*\*)

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(Street Address, City, State, Zip Code)

I am:

- A Direct Support Professional (DSP) who works directly with people with disabilities or other life challenges.
- Another professional who works with people with disabilities or other life challenges.
- The parent or family member of a person with disabilities or other life challenges.
- A concerned citizen who does not work with people with disabilities or other life challenges.

**Please return this petition to the Ability Network of Delaware office directly via USPS mail to 100 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103, Wilmington, DE 19809, OR faxed to (302) 622-9254, OR scanned and sent via e-mail to [petitions@abilitynetworkde.org](mailto:petitions@abilitynetworkde.org). Groups of petitions can also be hand delivered to the front desk at the Community Service Building at 100 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street in an envelope addressed to Ability Network of Delaware. **All petitions received will be shared with members of the General Assembly.****

\*Note: HB 433 would increase DDDS funding over a three year period (2017 – 2020). It will take **\$17.86 million in state funds** to reach the market rate, combined with **\$21.14 million in federal matching funds (FY 2017 FMAP), for a total of \$39 million.**

\*\*Note: If you list an e-mail address, you agree to receive updates on the petition drive.