



# SAVE OUR SUPPORTS: TALKING POINTS FOR EMPLOYEES

## Protect Services for People with Disabilities

### 1. These Budget Cuts Will Hurt the People We Support

- The governor's proposed budget cuts over **\$170 million from disability services.**
- These cuts will **take away essential supports** that people with disabilities need to **live independently, work, and be part of their communities.**
- Without this funding, the person(s) I support **will lose critical services** that help them thrive.

### 2. Community Living and Self-Directed Services Are at Risk

- **Cutting community living supports means** fewer hours of care, making it harder for people to participate in daily life.
- Reducing self-directed services will **limit families' ability to hire and retain caregivers, leaving people without the support they need.**
- If these cuts happen, **people and families will be left struggling,** and we will see more people in crisis.

### 3. We Can't Provide Quality Care Without a Strong Workforce

- Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and provider staff play a **vital role in supporting people with disabilities,** but we are **already facing a workforce crisis.**
- Eliminating the geographical differential rate and wage exception process will make it even **harder to recruit and retain staff—especially in high-cost areas.**
- If these cuts go through, **we will lose more staff,** making it impossible to provide the quality care people deserve.

### 4. Maryland Can Afford to Fund These Services

- The state is investing in economic growth and industries of the future **while cutting services that people with disabilities rely on today.**
- Maryland has a \$2 billion rainy day fund—if **supporting people with disabilities isn't a priority now,** when will it be?
- Our **work is essential,** and it **deserves to be fully funded.**



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### **5. We Need You to Take Action**

- These cuts will make it **harder for us to do our jobs** and for the people we support to **live safely and independently.**
- Fully funding these services isn't just about numbers—**it's about real people** who rely on them every day.
- **Please stand with us and fight to restore full funding for DDA services!**