



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

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Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
March 14, 2022**

Senators Anwar, Somers and Hwang, Representatives Steinberg and Petit and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **S.B. No. 374 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE REIMBURSABLE SALARIES OF DIRECTORS OF QUALIFIED PROVIDERS.**

This bill, if enacted, would allow the Departments of Developmental Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services or Social Services to increase the cost allowance to \$125,000 per year for the salary of the executive director of an organization or facility which provides employment opportunities or day services, or services in a residential facility. The current cost allowance for these salaries is set at \$101,000 per year. The bill also would allow the cost allowance for the salary of the executive director to be increased annually by an amount not to exceed the percentage increase of any cost of living increase provided under the terms of the contract of the organization beginning July 1, 2022.

The reimbursement for salaries of executive directors of DDS qualified providers and DMHAS private providers has not been adjusted since 2007. In that time both the direct care workers and the other professionals in the agencies have seen their wages go up so that now there is wage compression where the person running the agency may not be one of its highest-paid employees. This makes it difficult to attract either people from outside the agency or homegrown talent to apply for these executive director positions. It also creates volatility in the position if executive directors see opportunities to make the same or more money with less responsibility by moving into jobs where there are no caps on salaries.

While this bill would not require a private provider to increase the executive director's salary, it does provide incentive for a private provider to increase the salary because there would now be a cost allowance for the higher salary. Increasing the pay of executive directors of agencies that provide services for the majority of individuals DDS and DMHAS serve will help retain and attract executive directors which will provide stability to both the DDS and DMHAS service systems.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on **S.B. No. 374 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE REIMBURSABLE SALARIES OF DIRECTORS OF QUALIFIED PROVIDERS.** Please contact Kevin Bronson, DDS Director of Communications, Legislation and Regulations at 860-550-3497 with any questions.