May 5, 2017

Assemblymember Anthony Rendon

Speaker of the California State Assembly

State Capitol

Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Rendon,

**I am writing to ask you to please support passage of AB 279, Holden, currently on suspense by the Appropriations Committee**.

The Bill allows organizations serving children and adults with developmental disabilities in Los Angeles and other high cost areas in the State to receive adjustments to their rates to meet the minimum wage laws that have been enacted in these communities.

As a [family member at/staff member of/supporter of] Villa Esperanza Services, I [love/care for/support] someone who depends upon the services funded through the Department of Developmental Services. I know these services allow [Insert client name IE my sister Mary or my client John/Villa clients] to live successfully and pursue their dreams. The people who dedicate their lives to providing direct services deserve so much more than a minimum wage. But even that is now at risk because the State is not allowing adjustments to the rates it pays to service organizations in Los Angeles and other high cost areas so that they can pay the minimum wage in effect in their areas.

This makes no sense. The State of California has made a commitment to serve its developmentally disabled residents. The State sets the rates of reimbursement it will pay to provide these services through it community partners. How can the State refuse to recognize the laws that their service providers are mandated to obey?

Without AB 279, I am afraid that homes, day training and employment services will be trapped without the ability to pay their staff. Many will close – leaving thousands of people without places to live and without the services they need. This can’t be allowed to happen.

Please support AB279 and vote for its passage.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Your Name

Your Return Address