

LAKE GEORGE FOSTER HOMES, LLC/HARMONY KNOWLES

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○ TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I am writing to express the importance of individuals with disability having the same rights as individuals without disability as it pertains to Minimum wage.

For over 21 years I have worked with individuals receiving supportive living services, emergency services, intensive residential services, and community services. Throughout the years I have always believed that all individuals with disability should be at minimum wage, for any employment.

There are some companies that have taken changes necessary and successfully made changes with supported employment minimum wage. This needs to be of equal option across the entire state, not just to certain work sites and supported services.

Working so closely with populations of disability, I see the difference in desire and drive to do successful production when the individuals I serve are making minimum wage. It also opens competitive employment for some who may not otherwise get this opportunity. I serve some individuals that do not have a drive to be employed because they would not be starting at minimum wage. This sets up an unfair precedent to drive success and creates failure. Companies seem to also express the willingness to pay higher wages to support people with disability achieve minimum wage.

In the area of being a provider, I see open opportunity to allocate the transfer of funds from one area of services to another, to created added support to a minimum wage law for people with disability.

It is overdue time we look at NOT supporting unfair prejudice and we provide successful options in supporting stability and consistency of a minimum wage law for people with disability.

Sincerely,
Harmony Knowles
Administrator