Good morning Madam Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Lynette Johnson. J - O - H - N - S - O - N. I currently work for Residential Support Services. I would like to say that I was very fortunate to serve our great nation in the United States Navy for ten years. Upon getting out, I struggled to find my calling until I stumbled upon the DD Service industry. Once again, I was able to serve my country by serving her individuals with developemental disabilities. I have been doing so for 12 years now, 8 of them with RSS.

I want to begin by thanking you for your objections to the budget cuts proposed in Senate Bill 261. I work for a corporation that serves some of the nations' most vulnerable population. I understand that there are time constraints so I will get straight to my point. Our corporation is already dealing with staff shortages, extensive overtime costs, and low wages. We suffer high turnovers, causing behavioral issues due to the inconsistancies. There is no large number of unemployed to recruit from anymore. Frequently many of us work seven days a week, away from our families, to see that our corporation stays afloat and to ensure those we support's needs are met. As the cost of living rises more staff will leave our corporation, budget cuts will not allow for raises to meet the rising costs, and will go to jobs than can provide those cost allowances. Let me also say that these cuts don't only effect staffing and wages, but our clients cares and needs. Extreme budget cuts such as those proposed will be detrimental to our corporation and those who serve individuals such as we do in the same in industry. I want to end this with thanking you once again for your opposition to the budget cuts. It is refreshing to see people who care about our vulnerable populations and are will to advocate for them. And again thank you for your time.