



Mental Health Association in Michigan



Michigan



For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie Van Koevering, 517-974-6065

MI Policymakers Enact Permanent \$2.35 Wage Increase for Direct Support Professionals *FY 2022 Budget Reflects New Hope for Essential Sector*

Michigan’s FY 2022 budget, passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, includes a permanent \$2.35 wage increase for Direct Support Professionals, also known as Direct Care Workers.

The action will ensure Michiganders with behavioral health challenges can be supported by caregivers that are more adequately compensated for their work.

The action comes on the heels of a study commissioned by the Michigan Direct Care Worker Wage Coalition that demonstrates—for the first time—the true return on Michigan’s investment in the DSPs that work with individuals that have mental illnesses and developmental disabilities.

For an additional \$1 per hour investment, ROI totals \$52.6 million. Cost savings are generated by increased tax revenues, lower turnover costs, and a reduction in public assistance.

For every dollar Michigan invests in its DSPs, the state also can reduce turnover rates by 2.87 percentage points.

###