

# Supported Employment for People with Developmental Disabilities



*(Artwork by Ivanova Smith)*

## **Eliminate Sub-Minimum Wage - SB 5284**

- In September of 2020, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights declared the need to end subminimum wage, providing the following findings, “[I]n sum, the state transitions from 14(c) evaluated by the Commission seem promising and illustrate that it is possible to pay persons with disabilities at least minimum wage.”
- The Arc, APSE, Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council, the Washington Chapter of APSE, Disabilities Rights Washington all support this effort and we will work alongside our allies to ensure eliminating sub-minimum wage happens.

## **High School Transition - Create Taxpayers!**

Adults with Developmental Disabilities look to our state legislators to fund quality high school transition services that help students move from school to work, along with employment supports that assist the person to acquire gainful employment at minimum wage or better with their peers in inclusive community settings.

The supports they need to be successful should be available to them. Assistive technology might be just the tool they need. A job coach can help them learn their job tasks, then fade out as the individual becomes confident in their work. A few resources provided and you have created a tax-paying member of society!

## **Please Ensure Funding for Supported Employment Services And End Sub-minimum Wages**

Contact The Arc of Washington for more information (888) 754-8798



# Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL)

February 10, 2021

## Employment Services

SAIL believes that everyone one should have the opportunity to have a job and receive the supports needed for their job.

### End Sub Minimum Wage - SB 5284

We believe that all workers should be paid minimum wage or above. No person with disabilities should be denied an equal wage! We need to end sub minimum wage in public and private businesses! This is important legislation that the State of Washington can be a leader in taking this step to eliminated subminimum wage certificates for people with disabilities. The Federal government also is working to end this unfair practice.

Having a job means that individuals with DD are productive citizens, contributing to our economy by paying taxes, while also providing valuable services. Being gainfully employed builds self-esteem, but our state still allows us to be paid sub-minimum wages. Join self-advocates, families and employment service providers from Community Employment Alliance (CEA) as we work to make wages equitable. Tell your legislator it is time to end this unfair treatment.

### Supported Employment

Full inclusion in the community demands that we place individuals in high quality jobs that can pay their bills. Matchmaking is the goal of job coaches who work alongside us to assess, find, train, and support our community in real-world positions. In this pandemic, many are frontline workers in essential businesses. Others are technologically savvy and can work from home. We need employment services to assist us in finding what we are good at, getting us that job, training for the job and keeping the job. Let your legislators know that we need good jobs and supports.

### COVID-19 Impact on Essential Workers

People with disabilities still need to report to work during this pandemic. Many of us are clerks doing essential tasks. These workers must mask every day to go to their work-shifts. At the same time, we are at higher risk of developing complications from COVID if we do fall ill. This is a key reason to not limit disability benefits on people who are already struggling.

### Fund Transition Students to Leave School with Jobs!

The Governor's Operating Budget funds eligible high school graduates to add to the Basic Plus waiver. We need this support for finding and keeping jobs in the community and other essential supports needed to be included in the community. Adding Basic Plus waivers keeps these graduates from leaving school and adding to the waiting list.

### Transportation

If you live with disability, finding accessible transportation can be a challenge. We need reliable, accessible and affordable transportation to get to work and beyond. Without reliable transportation, people with disabilities have little options for getting to work. Many areas of our state do not have accessible transportation and the areas that do, it can be unreliable and difficult to access. Even a trip to the grocery store can feel like planning a vacation as you try to find a practical way from point A to point B. As much as we wish every state, city and town had the same accessibility accommodations, our world isn't there yet. We ask for funding to make all transportation options accessible for all types of disabilities. In addition, in some areas paratransit is not allowed to use the carpool lane, Self Advocates request that the legislature modify RCW 46.04.355 to enable Paratransit to Use Carpool Lanes, we need to get to work on time. People with disabilities still need to get around during this pandemic. Many of us don't have cars and cannot drive.

Self-Advocates in Leadership (SAIL) is a coalition of more than 200 individuals with developmental disabilities who are interested in shaping public policy in Washington State. For more information about SAIL:

sail@arcwa.org or  
1.888.754.8798, ext 3

To join our monthly SAIL meetings click on Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/8081389093>

Visit our website at [www.selfadvocatesinleadership.com](http://www.selfadvocatesinleadership.com)

Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/selfadvocatesinleadership](https://www.facebook.com/selfadvocatesinleadership)

**YES! on SB 5284**  
*Eliminate sub-minimum wage certificates.*

**NO! on HB 1080/SB 5083**  
*Don't build a 120 bed facility at Fircrest. Instead, add \$10 million to the Housing Trust Fund Developmental Disabilities Set-aside.*

**YES! on SB 5268**  
*Transform services for people with DD.*

**YES! On HB 1218**  
*Ensure families have 24 access to loved ones in residential settings.*

**YES! On SB 5213**  
*Clarify the authority/role of the DD Ombuds.*