



Telling Your Personal Story

The Situation

Minnesota's effective Home & Community- Based Services (HCBS) allow people with intellectual and physical disabilities to receive services tailored to meet their needs – whether that means help getting to work or complex 24/7 medical care. **Right now the foundation of the system - a strong and stable direct care workforce - is crumbling away.** Without maintenance the entire system is at risk.

The Solution: Take Action in 2017

Pass the Best Life Alliance Bill *SF 669/ HF 873*

- Consecutive 4 percent wage increases for more than 80,000 direct care workers statewide (effective July 1, 2017 and July 1, 2018).
- Development of a long-term solution for funding health insurance for direct care workers by July 1, 2019.

How to Share Your Story

Share your personal and organizational challenges and successes with legislators:

- **Providers and Staff:**
 - **Talk about open shifts, challenges in competing with other local businesses for workers, or how high turnover affects quality of care.** [Open shifts and high turnover make it difficult to do anything more than the basic cares. Quality care depends on consistent, quality staff. It's difficult to move forward with reforms if so much time and energy has to be spent trying to fill shifts and train in new staff over and over.]
 - **Share creative, new ways services are meeting the changing needs of people served, staff or your organization.** [How are you using technology, creating new efficiencies, improving health outcomes, creating new opportunities for people with disabilities or older Minnesotans or your staff]
- **Caregivers or Direct Support Professionals:**
 - **Talk about yourself** including the work and tasks you do every day, how long you have been in your current position and struggles you face due to the wages you earn.
 - **Talk about the specific services** that support people with disabilities and older adults and what impact they have. [They increase independence, allow people to be active

participants in their communities, ensure health and safety, foster skill development, provide job coaching, meet medical needs, allow people to volunteer, etc.]

- **Talk about open shifts, challenges in competing with other local businesses for workers, or how high turnover affects quality of care.** [Open shifts and high turnover make it difficult to do anything more than the basic cares. Quality care depends on consistent, quality staff.]
- **Family Members:**
 - **Talk about your loved one** and the specific services they receive. Share how the services impact your loved one's life, as well as your own.
 - **Talk about open shifts, and staff turnover.** How does high staff turnover impact your loved one's life, as well as your own. [Open shifts and high turnover make it difficult to do anything more than the basic cares. Quality care depends on consistent, quality staff.]
- **Self- Advocates:**
 - **Talk about yourself** and the specific services that you receive. Share how those services assist you in your day-to-day activities.
 - **Talk about the impact staff turnover has on your day-to-day activities.** What does it feel like to have staff leave and new staff start working with you?

About Best Life Alliance

Best Life Alliance is a statewide coalition of more than 130 organizations, people with disabilities, families and supporters advocating for Home & Community-Based Services. These essential services include training and employment programs, crisis respite services, group homes, complex home health care, Personal Care Assistance (PCA), and other services that allow people with disabilities to stay healthy, active, and independent. Best Life Alliance was formerly known as The 5% Campaign.