

Waterman, Robert - WHD

From: Katie Matusik <katiematusik@att.net>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 11:34 PM
To: WHDPRAComments
Subject: Wages for persons with disabilities,control number 1235-0001

I just received information concerning wages for persons with disabilities. As a parent of a 46 year old disabled adult who has been working for almost 30 years at a workshop for under minimum wage, I feel like I have the backround to address this proposal. Our son works in janitorial and has a work ethic that would put most people to shame. He wants to go back to work as soon as possible after he has had a seizure or has fallen because he has an artificial leg or even when he doesn't feel well. His work is his life . He receves a check . He doesn't make minimum wage and of course he likes to make money, but he works as a service to some of the others there who can't work. He takes out the garbage, cleans floors and has the satis faction of helping others. At this point in his life he would be unable to go out and work in the community because of his special needs . His work is his self worth, that's why he loves his work. It's not all about the money.

That's hard for most of us to understand but it's true. If the facility would be instucted to pay minimum wage to him and his fellow workers, they would probably have to close their doors. If this proposal is accepted he will go to the work shop and not have a job. he will stay there all day and be in classes to learn living skills or go on field trips, but would not be paid. The facility would have to hire a person to do the work he was doing. That would be devastating for him . It makes me want to cry to think of this happening to so many people that have the ability to work and want to work but won't be able to. Maybe it will make the people who are trying to get this passed feel good about themselves because they think they are helping the poor disabilied people but in fact it will truely hurt the people they think they are helping. It's hard to think that people work for the enjoyment of it rather than the money because we are so interested in making more money. Our society would be a better place if we could learn the real meaning of loving your work. Persons with disabilities who are able to work out in the community should be paid atleast minnimum wage. I totally agree with that. I am personally appalled at the idea that people who have never visited a special facility like the one our son works for can feel like they know what is best for these persons.

A mom who cares and is proud of it!

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