

Last night, January 27, 2021, during her State of the State Address, Governor Whitmer recommended to the State Legislature that the \$2.00/hour “premium pay” that has enhanced wages for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) during the pandemic become permanent.

ROI thanks Governor Whitmer, her staff and all of the advocates who have pushed so hard for this. This represents a critical resource necessary for ROI to perform its Mission. That Mission requires staff, ROI’s Heros, to perform stressful work every day to care for vulnerable people who are dependent upon them and rely upon them for a good quality of life. We have struggled for years to have the resources that allow our staff to continue working for ROI so we can accomplish that Mission, so we can help people with significant disabilities to live in their own communities and thrive.

Of course, this is not the end of the advocacy. At the moment this is “just” a proposal from the Governor, but, wow, what a proposal! This needs to be funded by the State and we are beginning the legislative process for the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives to help secure the necessary funding. We know many in the Legislature already support this initiative. We look forward to working with them and all other legislators to help solve this funding challenge.