

# Raney's HB 885 & Huffman's SB 753

## Meaningful, Competitive Employment Opportunities for Texans with Disabilities

The Purchasing from People with Disabilities program's goal is to help people with disabilities enter the workforce. Only **5** of the **107** organizations who contract through this program pay people with disabilities less than minimum wage.

### What this bill will do:

- Narrowly focus on the Purchasing from People with Disabilities Program.
- Gives employers in the program until September 2022 (with the possibility of a one year extension), to transition their program to paying people with disabilities at least minimum wage.
- Gives the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) the authority to grant waivers on a case-by-case basis.



Some Texans are paid as little as \$0.02 an hour, and that's legal.

### What about benefits?

#### MYTH:

People will lose their benefits if they earn minimum wage.

#### FACT:

People with disabilities can earn higher than minimum wage without losing critical benefits like Medicaid.

### What this bill will not do:

- Jeopardize Medicaid Benefits for Texans with Disabilities: Texans with disabilities can earn competitive wages! There are many federal incentives and resources available to help individuals work.
- Put Organizations Out of Business: The goal of this bill is to keep every organization in the Program. Organizations have already transitioned to minimum wage since last session.
- Leave Texans with Disabilities Without a Job: There are many protections built into this bill that ensure no one will be adversely affected.

**HB 2409 of the 85<sup>th</sup>(R) had wide bipartisan support with 5 authors and 34 co-sponsors.**