



Joseph Wilson

36th Legislative District:

Issue: Income Cap for Apple Healthcare with Workers with Disabilities

My name is Joey Wilson, I am 26 years old and I live in the 36th legislative District. I live independently and attend the Bellevue College Occupational and Life Skills program part time. I have been working part time at Safeway as a grocery clerk for 3.5 years. In the summer I volunteer at the food bank and at NAMI. I depend on Apple Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities (AHWD) to get the healthcare and services I need for my mental health condition so that I can live independently in the community. The income limit for HWD makes it so I can't earn more than a certain amount each month. This makes it difficult for me to earn a living in Seattle.

Apple Healthcare for Workers with Disabilities (AHWD) allows individuals with disabilities to work and keep essential Medicaid supports such as personal care, employment, mental health and housing services. The current annual limit for AHWD for 2017 is \$32,760. Individual states set the income limits for AHWD. For individuals who receive Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), the amount of SSDI received is treated as unearned income and is considered countable toward the income limits. Some of the SSDI amount is disregarded. The state sets the limit on how much of the SSDI can be disregarded. People with disabilities are earning more because of increases in the minimum wage and increases in hours.

Please raise the annual income limit and increase the unearned income disregard for AHWD. Let's make sure that hard working people like Joey can work and make enough to live in the community with the supports he needs.