

Raises urged for State House aides, human services workers alike

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THE ARTICLE “STATE HOUSE AIDES GET RAISES:HUMAN SERVICES WORKERS PROTEST” (Page A1, Nov. 27) discussed a demonstration of human services workers at the State House. Some readers may have gotten the wrong impression about the purpose of the event. I would like to take an opportunity to clarify further the reason for the demonstration.

Members of the Caring Force, a grass-roots human services advocacy movement, are demonstrating to encourage Governor Patrick to release a 2 percent salary increase for direct-care workers that was indefinitely delayed by the Patrick-Murray administration. For several months, these workers were promised that this modest increase would arrive before the holidays. More than 29,000 workers, who work in our community to serve people with disabilities, children at risk, our vulnerable elderly, veterans, and others, have not received an annualized salary increase in five years.

In addition, we feel it is very appropriate for legislative leaders to give a modest raise to their staff — individuals who have also gone without an increase since 2008.

We appreciate the Legislature’s efforts this year to help our community-based workers. We hope Patrick will respect and appreciate the dedication of the 29,000 workers who are trying to provide for their children and families. We believe they certainly deserve this modest salary adjustment.

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