

Chairwoman Carruthers, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the subcommittee, my name is Doris Pippin-Kindig and it is my privilege to speak to you today. I live at Echoing Valley in Dayton, Ohio, a home that serves people with developmental disabilities. I want you to know that people with developmental disabilities are not crazy, they just need help with everyday things. I was married to my husband, Larry, who had Spina Bifida. We have both needed help from direct support professionals our whole lives.

Over my lifetime, I have lived in several residential homes and nursing homes that are short staffed because of the pay. One example of this having a negative impact on my life is that I have broken my right arm and left leg after being dropped. The staff that was helping me did not have any help to transfer me. I have arthritis due to this and have to take Baclofen and Tylenol every day for pain.

At a different home I was at, I often had to stay in bed in my pajamas due to the short staffing. I have seen an improvement in my care since coming to live at Echoing Valley. They have the most phenomenal staff. I would suggest a wage of 20-25 dollars an hour. If we paid them that wage, we would have more staff come work for us. It would mean we could have more staff to assign to each

person or room. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.