

Jackie Fouty
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce
3/22/23

I have worked with individuals with disabilities for 30 years. I worked in an ICFMR, Dayhab program and as a Para in the schools. I have worked part time as a dsp for 17 years along with my full time job at an ESC in Ohio. I worked as drop in service and the main house I worked at I helped take care of a child. I worked with her for 8 years and throughout the years there were a lot of turnover. Starting pay was \$10.00. I was able to start at a higher wage due to experience but over 14 years have only increased by \$2.30. I shared this info with my son who is now working with this population. His response „¿did you only get 5 cent raise „¿? I'm advocating for those who need the help. I lost track of how many people came into the home and who I trained. They can go to McDonald's and make more. My advocating for my son who makes \$11.00 an hour and I am told by the owners he does such a great job. How long will he stay? He gets discouraged because of the pay. In this field we deal with all aspects. Each day is a new day and you need to be able to handle anything. I can go on and on about my experiences in the different areas that I have worked and the salary that doesn't align with the direct care. Compared to 30 years ago you had to fight for a job in this field and now you have to beg for people. I am asking for support for the DSP's in Ohio. To make them feel valued.