Kim Musgrave
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce
3/22/23

I am mom and guardian of my angel son, Luke, who has cerebral palsy & epilepsy. The stress of the provider crisis impacts me every day. Luke needs help with everything, including eating walking and communicating. Luke is approved for home nursing services which significantly helps to keep him healthy and safe by having the training to care for him and administer his medications, tube feeds and procedures that keep him out of the hospital. However, We have a difficult time finding home care nurses. This provider crisis has impacted our family in many ways. I am unable to work outside the home because my husband, a fireman, works 24 hour shifts and Luke needs constant care. I used to be able to do more but the lack of care has me scrambling just to get things done such as daily house chores and the many things I need to do for Luke. The stress of daily care for my 108 pound son without much of a break is exhausting!. I also worry about what will happen to Luke when my husband and I are not here to care for him?! Five years ago I had to have an emergency abdominal surgery and was in the hospital for 6 days, and had a long recovery. If that happened now, I would be panicking about how to care for Luke and what would happen to his health because I was not able to physically care for him! We have had nurses leave because they can't make enough money working in home care. Homecare Nurses, home health aids, are locked into reimbursement rates set by the state. I am writing to our legislators as a desperate plea to support a historic investment in service reimbursement. This investment will allow recruitment and retention of quality direct support professionals! If providers are paid more they will be more willing to stay in this important field of work that truly impacts REAL people's lives. This investment will ensure the health and safety of one of the most vulnerable populations in Ohio, our loved ones with disabilities.Thank you for listening to my story.