

Seara Ackley
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce
3/22/23

I have been an Independent Provider for over 15 years. I love working with and supporting the individuals and families that I work with. I work with individuals that need all kinds of varies support. I know that there are individuals that can't get the support they need because to the shortage of providers. I receive emails on a regular basis for individuals that need a provider. In addition, to supporting my individuals I am also responsible for paperwork, trainings, reviews and certifications. These all take time and some cost money. I don't bill for the time it takes to do these things. I know that I could do my paperwork while I am still with my individuals, but I don't want to take that time away from them. We are not offered any kind of insurance which I think would make this job more appealing for someone who would like to do it fulltime but aren't able to be covered on a spouse's insurance plan. I also believe if taxes were taken out that would help with the shortage as well. However, most of all I believe we need to get the wages up to keep people. We are out here doing a lot for not a lot of money.