

Tanetta Mitchell  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce  
3/22/23

I would like to share my story as a direct support professional (DSP). I have been working in the field for almost 30 years. First of all I have to work with several companies to make ends meet due to most companies not allowing overtime. I have been with one company for almost 20 years, and the other company 10 years. Financially I should have been left but the bond and love I have for my clients is what made me stay. I always wondered if they would get the type of care I get once I leave, because I believe in giving them the care I would want. For some of my clients I'm the only family they have. When I'm not there they can't wait for my return to tell me they miss me and recite my schedule just to make sure I'm going to be back. Unfortunately, I cannot continue on like this. All these years dedicated to caring for others to see my son at 16 making more money than I at a fast food restaurant. I am saddened by the fact that I am going to have to tell my clients I will be leaving, something I have put off for many years but now I need to be able to support my family while still having time for myself and working 100 hours a week which is now between 3 companies is becoming unhealthy. I'm now forced to change from doing something I love and am passionate about which is caring for people, to stocking products on a shelf or working on an assembly line in order to live life. I just pray my clients are able to understand why I have to leave, and it has nothing to do with them but after over 20 years and still making 12.00 an hour helping others live their best life in their community, while also ensuring their health and safety just does not make sense.