

Aimee Hannan
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

My name is Aimee Hannan and I am submitting testimony because I am an Ohio mother who has a son with severe autism and other developmental disabilities. My husband and I rely on Direct Support Professionals to support us with caring for our son. Our son is 19 years old and requires 24/7 care. He is also very large (6'7) and difficult to handle. While we would like to keep him living with us for the rest of our lives, this has been made very difficult by the fact that we cannot obtain help for him. The wages for workers are much too low. We rely on professionals to help us - and those professionals are finding jobs outside of their fields because of the low wages. We have an IO waiver for our son but can barely use the money in it due to the fact that there isn't sufficient help available for us. My husband and I both work - but we have to miss work so much to care for our son. We fear for our jobs due to the time we need to commit to our son. So not only do we not have sustainable for our son, we also worry about our incomes as well (and we are certainly not wealthy to begin with). We are a very middle class family and our doing our best to help our son and to keep him in our home, but we need the help of lawmakers as well. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and please consider any way you can to resolve these issues for families in Ohio.