

Amanda Sisia
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

I have been trying to find a provider for home maker personal care, or a home health aide for my autistic daughter for over a year. We did manage to find one, and she was fantastic, except she had several other clients and she couldn't fulfill the hours we needed. She quit after a few weeks, she had only been there for us for 4 days total. I have an autoimmune disease, it makes it hard to be everything I need to be all the time. I have 3 children, my autistic daughter is the youngest. She requires constant attention and care. We have needed help for years, and when we were finally approved for services we found out there is no one to provide services. This needs to change. With the rise of cases of autism, and the many children with various other disabilities, there is a great demand for help for them and their families. I challenge you to ask any parent of a child with a challenging disability what it's like. How it affects their entire family, their marriage, every aspect of their life. I can't even put my daughter in a daycare facility, because she still has potty training issues. She is 7, so no daycares will take her because she is too old for them to help her go to the bathroom. It's almost impossible to try to find a job where I only have to work while she is in school, no weekends, no breaks, no summers. I am her primary caretaker 24/7. So many people need help. Please do something to help all of these children and families who desperately need it.