

Angela Siciliano  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

I've worked teaching adapted fitness for individuals with disabilities since 2004 and have work in direct care for individuals with disabilities since 2008. I've worked in residential group homes, for the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities and now as a special education assistant at the Westlake High School serving kids with moderate and severe needs.

I love the work I do, I've also started a business Adapted Fitness and Yoga Plus to service fitness for individuals and families. Every position Ive held and currently has been extremely low paying! I'm a single mom and I cannot afford to support myself on my wages! I'm lucky to have health insurance at the school but the hourly wage is very poor and I believe we should be paid year round like teachers !! I've had a lot of education and training from the county on how to work with individuals with behaviors and medical needs. We take a lot of physical action from kids with behavioral issues and we do all nurses care. Tube feeding, kids that need a catheter , handling seizures, doing all their personal care, and passing meds! All of those things are essential working with individuals who have disabilities! We definitely need a living wage! It's not fair! I would like to be able to support myself and my kids, and instead I have to live with a parent and I'm 50yrs old.