

Barb Swope
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

My very dear friend has the sweetest disabled daughter one can ever hope to meet. Unfortunately my friend is a widower and his entire family lives in another country. While he always did the best he could for his daughter, she was not thriving at home. She was underweight and often sick. Fortunately, my friend was able to secure a spot for his daughter in one of our state's wonderful residential centers. In just over a year, his daughter has gained weight and through the offerings of the residential center, she attends school and is absolutely thriving. So much of her excellent progress is due to the love and care she receives from the center's support professionals. They attend to her needs so well and every time I visit her, she is smiling and happy. She may be differently abled but she knows she is in a safe, caring, and nurturing environment. The people who care for her needs day in and day out must be compensated fairly for the service they provide so that they will continue to nurture her development. I believe those in this particular line of work possess an altruistic sense of purpose unlike so many of us but their willingness to help others should not be taken advantage of. They each deserve a salary that will allow them to maintain financial stability in their personal lives so that they will continue to do the work that fulfills their hearts as well.