

Bethany Mirka  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

I am the mother to an adult son that is nonverbal with Down syndrome and Autism. I have a degree in Biochemistry and yet I am unable to work because of the constant and consistent care needed for my son. There are not enough Direct Support providers! If you are fortunate to hire one they leave quickly due to the low wages. They are paid very little for the immense responsibility required for the job. They can make so much more flipping burgers. Our community needs recognized for the crisis that it has been shouldering for years. It truly is on the verge of collapse. We need help. Please, I beg you, please help the most vulnerable of your constituents. Band-aids will no longer work. We need real change and drastically higher wages for Direct Support Staff.