

Beth Beattie  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

My name is Beth Beattie. I am the parent and guardian of my son John, who is 33 years old. John is developmentally disabled, and totally dependent on others for his care. He cannot speak or communicate, so I am advocating on his behalf. John lives in a group home with a dedicated staff who provide good care. But because of the shortage of direct care professionals, many staff are asked to work long overtime hours, and come in on their time off. Many of the staff live very frugal lives, but they do their job because of the dedication to those with disabilities who desperately need them. Increasing wages would be an incentive for others to enter this workforce and provide much needed care for those with developmental disabilities. Thank you for addressing this very critical need.