

Brandy Peloso  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

My name is Brandy Peloso and I am a program coordinator at an X-excel Day Hab. I've been working in this field for 10 years now. In the past 3 years, staffing has become a nightmare due to the shortage. At my site we currently have 14 individuals and only two staff, my DSP and myself. We do our best to get our individuals out into the community by volunteering, working, and many other ways. This is hard to do with only two staff when the state wants you out in the community at a 1:4 ratio. We try to keep everyone engaged and involved, yet this is also hard to do with only two of us. I feel the individuals we serve don't get all the attention each of them deserves. We're trying to hear them towards future employment in the community, however; this is also difficult with only two staff when our site has both AD and VocHab. Our rate of pay is a huge issue in the staffing crisis seen across the state. I struggle pay to pay to make ends meet as I know my DSP does also. We help the individuals get into jobs that are paying more than we make. We obviously are here for them and not the money. It would be nice if we made enough in wages to not struggle at a job we love doing! I urge lawmakers to take action to raise wages for those of us working to make lives better in the DD world, so that we can continue doing a job we love and can afford to live on. Thank you for taking time to read my testimony and pray you take careful consideration to resolve this growing issue.