

Colleen Larned
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

My name is Colleen Larned, and I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and I work with multiple Ohioans with developmental disabilities. I see first hand how these individuals rely on Direct Support Professionals to support them with their everyday activities, medical needs, and even the support necessary to teach functional skills in order to decrease dangerous, escalated behavior. There is a lack the support because of the shortage of Direct Support Professionals due to their low wages. I urge lawmakers to take action to raise wages for workers in the DD system so that these individuals can get the supports they truly need to thrive and to ensure their safety and the safety of others. Thank you for your time and for your careful consideration of how to resolve this critical issue.