

Crystal Winters
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

My name is Crystal Winters. My late sister had a developmental disability and would not have been able to even get out of bed in the morning with assistance. I also have worked in the DD field for over 25 years and have not witnessed a staffing crisis that is extreme as the one we have been experiencing. Direct Support Professionals (people who literally have the lives of vulnerable citizens in their hands) are paid barely above minimum wage. There is no incentive for them to do the hard and detailed work of caring for adults with Developmental Disabilities if they cannot earn a living wage and support themselves or their families. I strongly urge Ohio Legislators to support/vote in favor of increasing funding to raise wages for workers in the Developmental Disabilities system.

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