

Cynthia Sofranko
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

My name is Cynthia Sofranko and I am the parent/guardian of a 39 year old adult with Developmental Disabilities. My son has lived in a group home since 2009. He has interacted and grown to love his caregivers. Unfortunately, throughout the last 14 years, there have been over 100 caregivers come and go mainly due to the fact that they are not earning a living wage. Many of them are in tears as they say goodbye on their last day. They grow to love the residents, but cannot afford to work as a DSP and are forced to change career paths. It makes no sense to me that working with individuals with special needs has a lower pay scale than working at a fast food restaurant. These people are overworked and drastically underpaid. Please, please consider taking action to raise wages so that my son can get the supports that he needs. He would love to go out in the community once in a while but there aren't enough DSP's to provide that need.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and for your careful consideration of how to resolve this critical issue.