

Danielle Cote
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

This crisis defines who we are as a society and as citizens of Ohio. As a mother of an individual with developmental disabilities, and a support administrator serving this population, I worry about our most vulnerable citizens. I am also concerned at how little value we give to the amazing direct support providers that take care of our loved ones. They are overworked and under paid. As an example, the supervisor at my son's congregate home works seven days/week because of staff shortages. She has children of her own and I worry at what would happen if she goes one day. We have an amazing waiver system in Ohio that provides funds for our developmentally disabled community to get the support and services they need, but what good is it if there is no one to provide these services? I hope that our elected officials will consider doing what's morally right without a political agenda...now more than ever! Above all things, this is a human crisis. Thank you for your consideration.

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