

David Richmond  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

My David I'm an independent provider since 2021. I have clients without gaurdians or anyone. I'm all they have. They can't read or write. Both clients are over 50. These people miss a lot of important things we take for granted. They can't just go the doctor or grocery store. They don't have the mental capacity to catch a bus or an Uber because they can't read or write so they can't just jump on the internet. If I'm out sick or have family emergency we don't have any respite care to back me up. I have to live their lives for them and try to remember my life family and health as well. I would never take a vacation because I can't they depending on me and only me

These clients have medications they need to take daily and at night. If I'm out the client doesn't get their meds. If I'm out they may not have clean clothes or may not have anything to eat until I'm back. Neither one can cook for themselves or even use a microwave. It is extremely important that we do what's right because we're dealing with human beings who have the ability to love and feel emotions like anyone else. They deserve to have best and most basic of care because they are the ones who really need it. Thanks 🙏