

Ebony Hill
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

I have 2 children with level 3 autism. They are total care and I am a single mother. Now that my children are school age they receive less services and I am unable to get a DSP in home because my local DD is short staffed. My only option would be inhome nursing services with are not required to aid my children outside of health concerns. This leaves me with no option because we need support not skilled nurses. This takes away services from the rest of the IDD community because we all left fighting for these same supports instead of the ones that will actually benefit us as a whole. I am also a DSP at Bittersweet Farms. I work with adults with autism and I see the struggle the participants go through with having to meet strangers and allow them to service them even in private moments. The participants get to know staff and in a few short months the staff has moved to a new job. Participants grieve these relationships and can themselves do nothing about it. The worlds that stay are tasked with having to explain and support the participants through these emotional moments as well have support their daily needs. It's a heart breaking experience to have to endure this emotional journey for these individuals. As a parent of autism, I know and understand these feeling. Which is why I went into DSP. Consistency is the most valuable aspect for IDD community. But yet this career is looked at as the bottom of the barrel.