

Gail McKinney  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

Staffing is a problem for our family and my son's quality of life as a person with disabilities. Our son works at Hiram Farm, located in Hiram OH. It is a working farm with pigs and chickens to feed and water, woodworking projects that bring in a small amount of income for the workers. Because of staff shortish, he has not been able to work a 5 day week. The reason for staff shortish is a lack of funding. Prospective workers are hired and then, after being trained, quit because they can get better pay elsewhere.

The ramifications are not attending their day program, possibly having to be picked up by parents, staying at home with nothing to do and caregivers that are exhausted. Staff that care for our son, sometimes work double shifts. Another issue is the quality of staff. One night staff called the police because he would not go to bed. We got a call at midnight. Luckily the police officer had a calming affect on him.

If higher wages occurred, we would have a larger amount of people to select from, make it more competitive.

One last comment. Shawn, our son, is 41 years old. Lives in a house that we bought, with 2 other young men. They have lived in this house for 4 years.

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