

Gail Webster
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

The story I wish to share is regarding my adult son who has developmental disabilities and who receives services from both a job coach and for homemaker personal care. As parents, we realize the importance of the role that each of the people who works with our son contributes to his sense of well being and independence. We understand that their wages are on the low end of the spectrum and that it is common for them to move to other jobs when they need to earn more money. We support them receiving higher wages PROVIDED the number of units of service our son receives are not cut in order to pay for the higher wages. This has happened several times over the past decade, and in the end, it is our son who pays the price in reduced time with the people he needs to supply support for him. Therefore, I would request that any changes to the amount of pay that DSPs receive should not jeopardize the clients they serve by cutting back their number of units of service due to a limited pool of funds. Lawmakers need to ensure that the quality and quantity of care is not diminished for the very people who are to be served, but need to increase the amount of dollars that will be used to increase the pay of the DSPs.